AMAR CHITRA KATHA

# Legendary Rulers of India

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**Scripts**: B.R. Bhagwat, Subba Rao, Yagya Sharma, Sita Anantharaman,
Rajalakshmi Raghavan, Rahul Singh, Coomi B. Chinoy, Meena Talim,
Toni Patel, Kamala Chandrakant & Meena Ranade

**Illustrations**: Ram Waeerkar, Pratap Mullick, P. B. Kavadi,
G. R. Naik, Varnam, Devender, Souren Roy,
H. S. Chavan, Dilip Kadam & M. K. Basha

**Special Text**: Shalini Srinivasan **Cover & Design**: Sundara Moorthy and Anil Kumar M.

**Editor**: Reena Ittyerah Puri

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AFL House, 7th Floor, Lok Bharti Complex, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059.India
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**Legendary Rulers of India**
**IN THIS COLLECTION**

### Brave Queens
Sultana Razia
Rani of Zhansi
Rani Abbakka

### Warrior Kings
Shivaji
Tipu Sultan
Rana Pratap

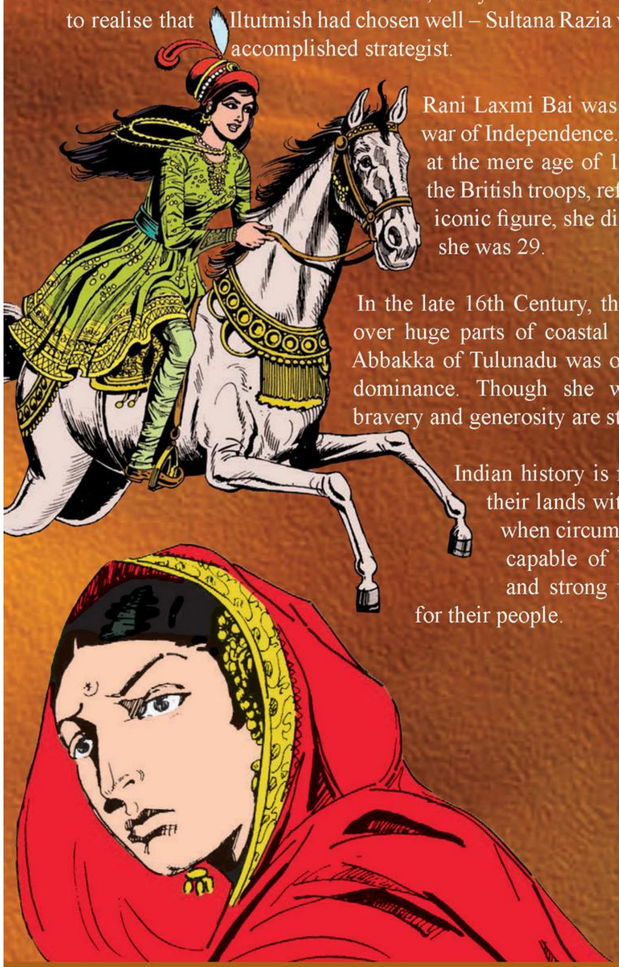
### Conquerors
Raja Raja Chola
The Legend of Lalitaditya
Babur

### Visionary Kings
Ranjit Singh
Shah Jahan
Ashoka

### Administrators
Akbar
Ahilya Bai Holkar
Krishnadeva Raya

# Brave Queens

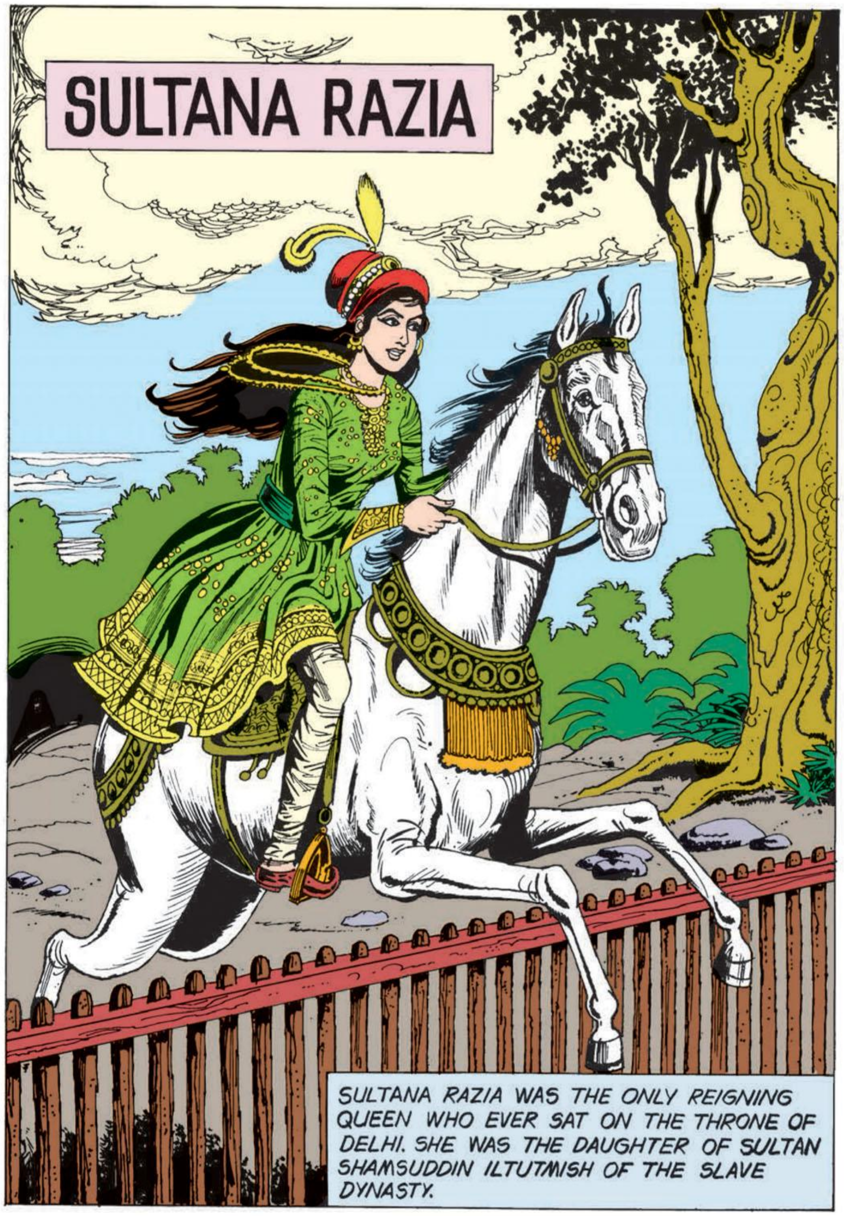
On his deathbed, Iltutmish, the Sultan of Delhi wrote a will that went against tradition – he nominated his daughter Razia as his successor, over the claims of her two brothers. When he died and the will was read out, many in his court disapproved, but they soon came to realise that Iltutmish had chosen well – Sultana Razia was a just and wise ruler and an accomplished strategist.

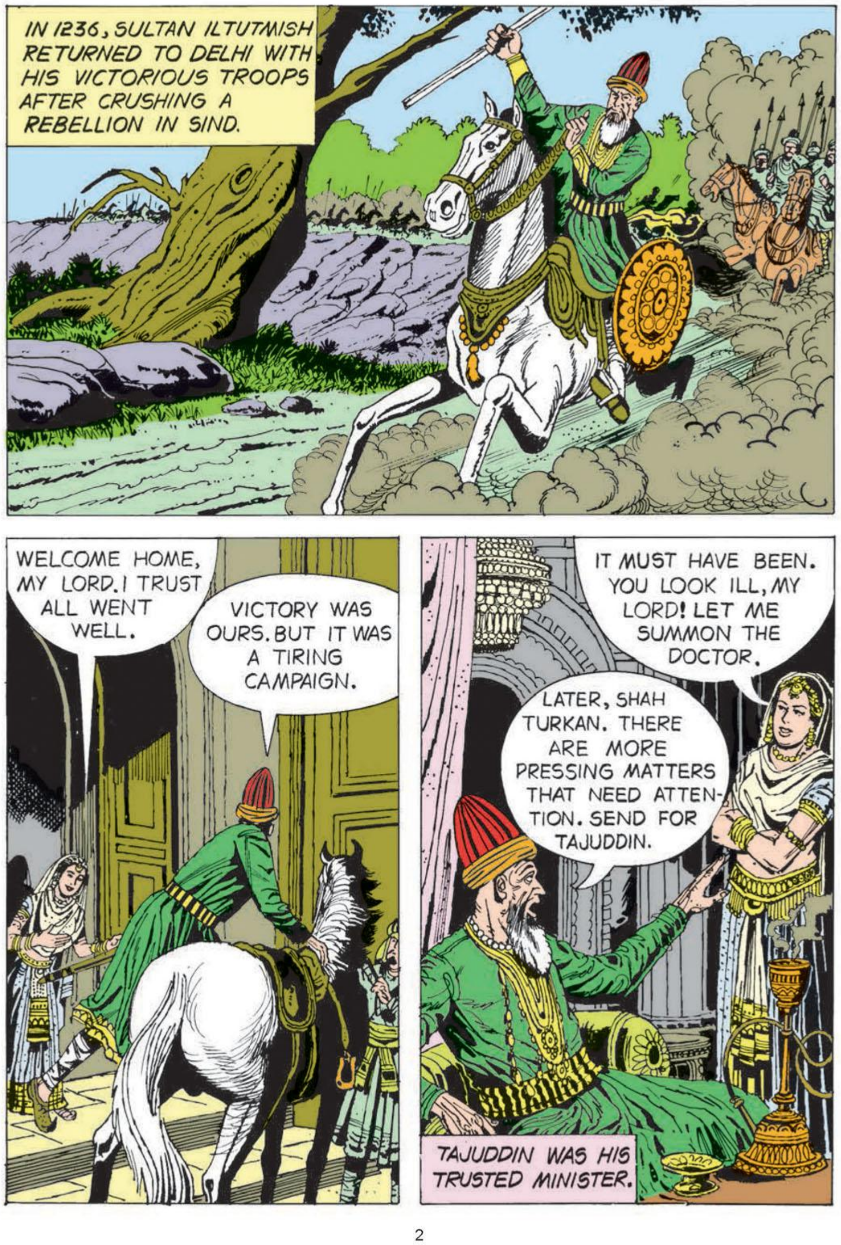


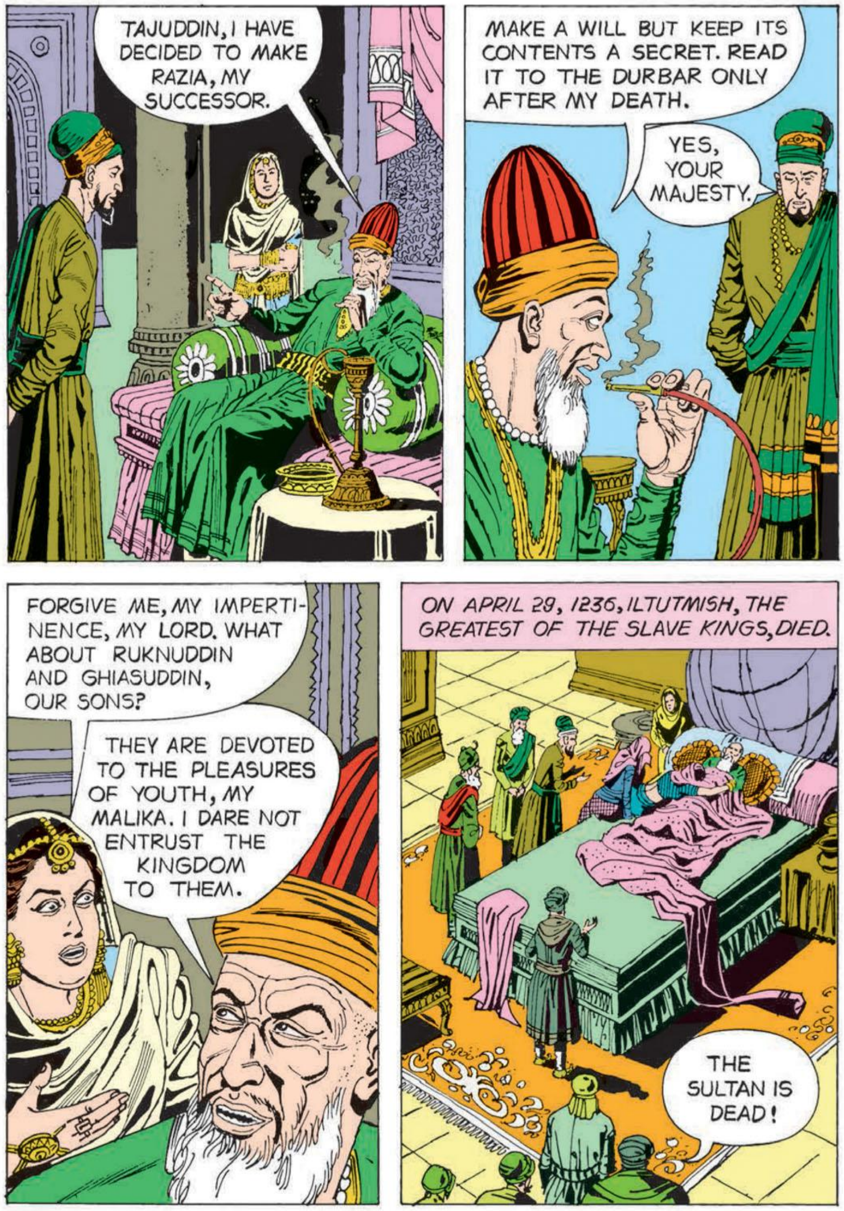
Rani Laxmi Bai was one of the heroes of the 1857 war of Independence. She became the ruler of Jhansi at the mere age of 18 and fought valiantly against the British troops, refusing to give up her Jhansi. An iconic figure, she died fighting near Gwalior when she was 29.

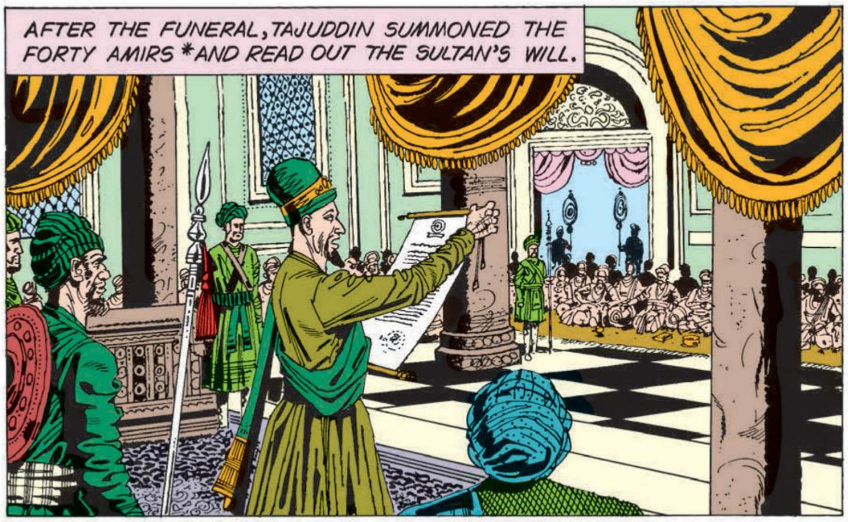
In the late 16th Century, the Portugese attempted to take over huge parts of coastal India and control trade. Rani Abbakka of Tulunadu was one of those who resisted their dominance. Though she was eventually captured, her bravery and generosity are still remembered in folklore.

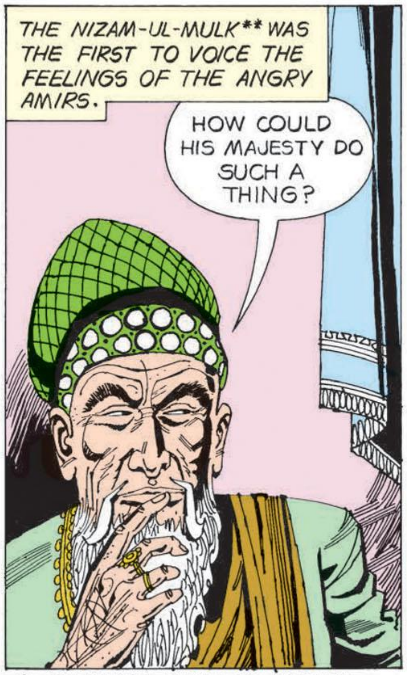
Indian history is full of queens who have ruled their lands with compassion and caring. But when circumstances changed, the were also capable of becoming cleverstrategists and strong warriors giving up their lives for their people.

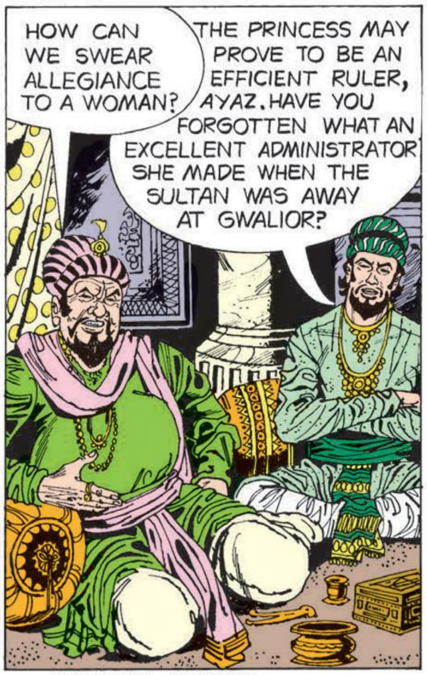

SULTANA RAZIA
SULTANA RAZIA WAS THE ONLY REIGNING QUEEN WHO EVER SAT ON THE THRONE OF DELHI. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF SULTAN SHAMSUDDIN ILTUTMISH OF THE SLAVE DYNASTY.


IN 1236, SULTAN ILTUTMISH RETURNED TO DELHI WITH HIS VICTORIOUS TROOPS AFTER CRUSHING A REBELLION IN SIND.
WELCOME HOME, MY LORD. I TRUST ALL WENT WELL.
VICTORY WAS OURS. BUT IT WAS A TIRING CAMPAIGN.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN. YOU LOOK ILL, MY LORD! LET ME SUMMON THE DOCTOR.
LATER, SHAH TURKAN. THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS THAT NEED ATTENTION. SEND FOR TAJUDDIN.
TAJUDDIN WAS HIS TRUSTED MINISTER.


TAJUDDIN, I HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE RAZIA, MY SUCCESSOR.
MAKE A WILL BUT KEEP ITS CONTENTS A SECRET. READ IT TO THE DURBAR ONLY AFTER MY DEATH.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
FORGIVE ME, MY IMPERTINENCE, MY LORD. WHAT ABOUT RUKNUDDIN AND GHIASUDDIN, OUR SONS?
THEY ARE DEVOTED TO THE PLEASURES OF YOUTH, MY MALIKA. I DARE NOT ENTRUST THE KINGDOM TO THEM.
ON APRIL 29, 1236, ILTUTMISH, THE GREATEST OF THE SLAVE KINGS, DIED.
THE SULTAN IS DEAD!

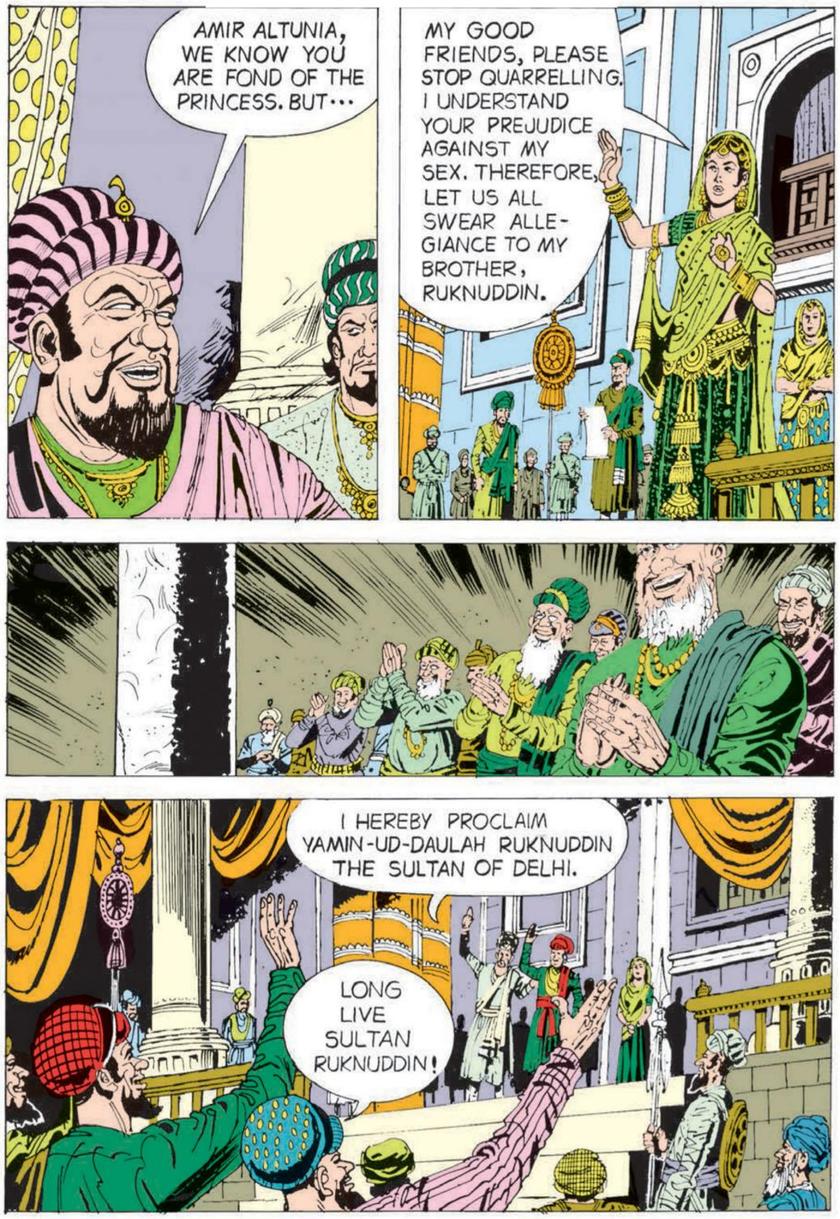

AFTER THE FUNERAL, TAJUDDIN SUMMONED THE FORTY AMIRS * AND READ OUT THE SULTAN'S WILL.

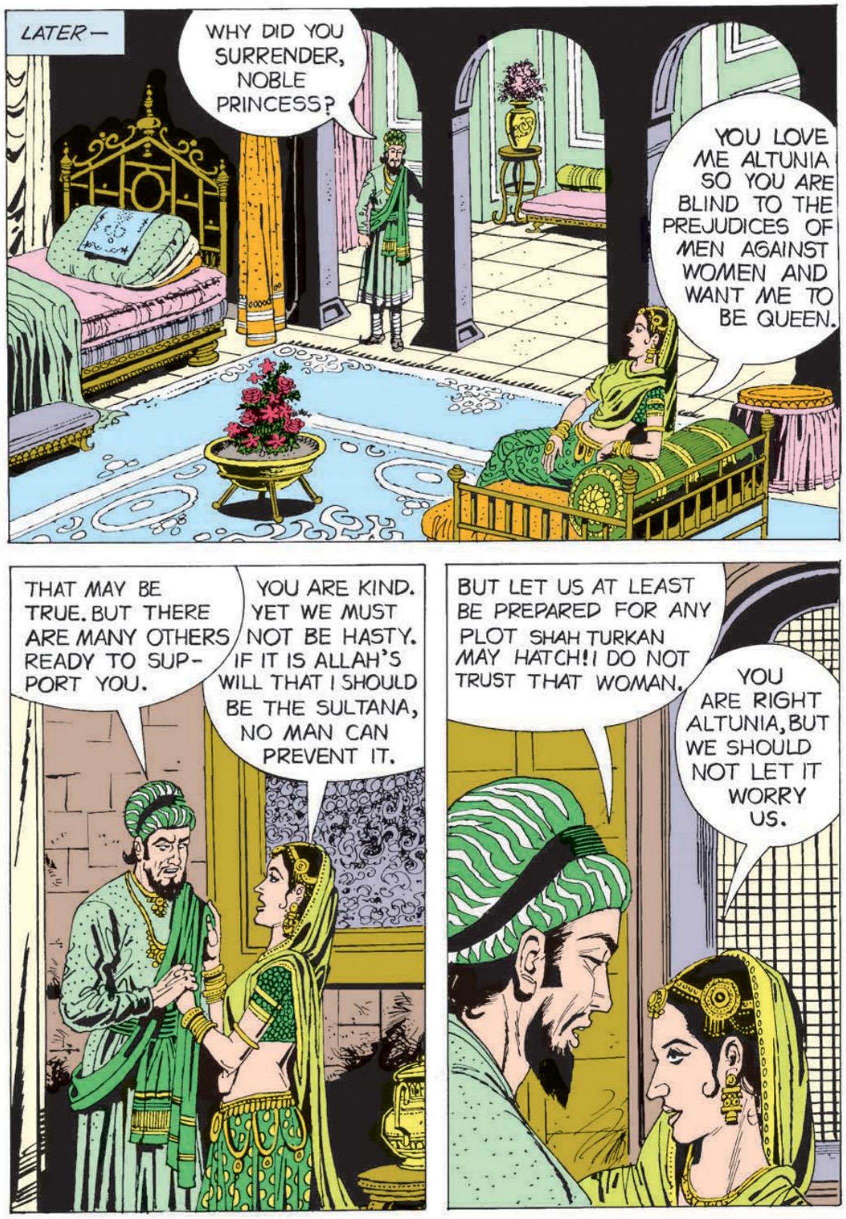

THE NIZAM-UL-MULK** WAS THE FIRST TO VOICE THE FEELINGS OF THE ANGRY AMIRS.
HOW COULD HIS MAJESTY DO SUCH A THING?

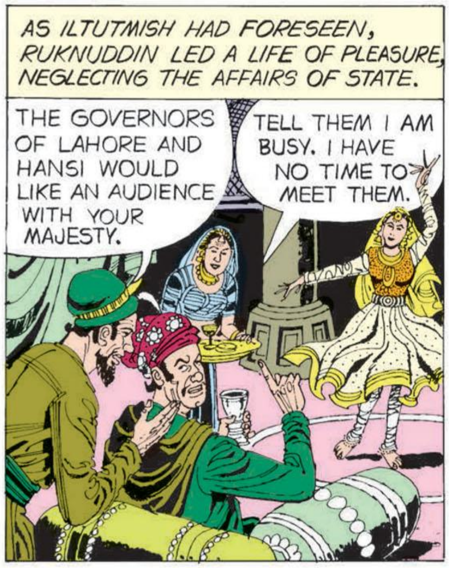

HOW CAN WE SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO A WOMAN?
THE PRINCESS MAY PROVE TO BE AN EFFICIENT RULER, AYAZ. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT AN EXCELLENT ADMINISTRATOR SHE MADE WHEN THE SULTAN WAS AWAY AT GWALIOR?

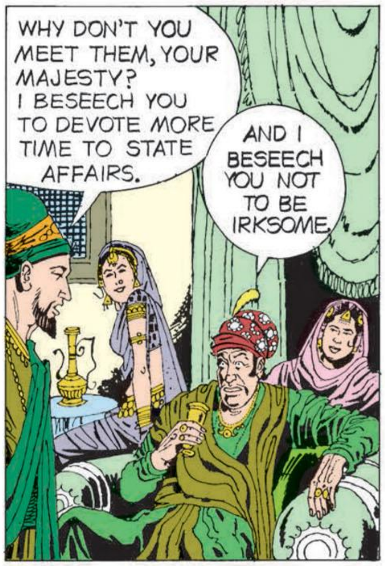
* POWERFUL TURKISH NOBLES

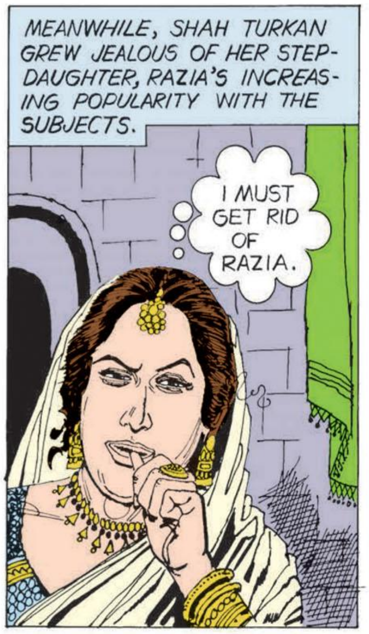
** PRIME MINISTER

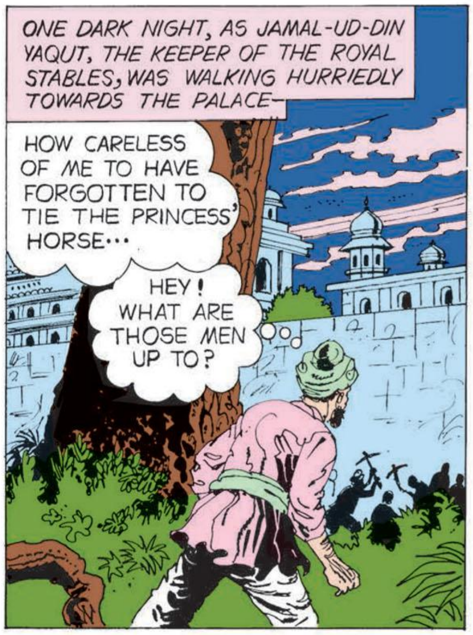

AMIR ALTUNIA, WE KNOW YOU ARE FOND OF THE PRINCESS. BUT···
MY GOOD FRIENDS, PLEASE STOP QUARRELLING. I UNDERSTAND YOUR PREJUDICE AGAINST MY SEX. THEREFORE, LET US ALL SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO MY BROTHER, RUKNUDDIN.
I HEREBY PROCLAIM YAMIN-UD-DAULAH RUKNUDDIN THE SULTAN OF DELHI.
LONG LIVE SULTAN RUKNUDDIN!

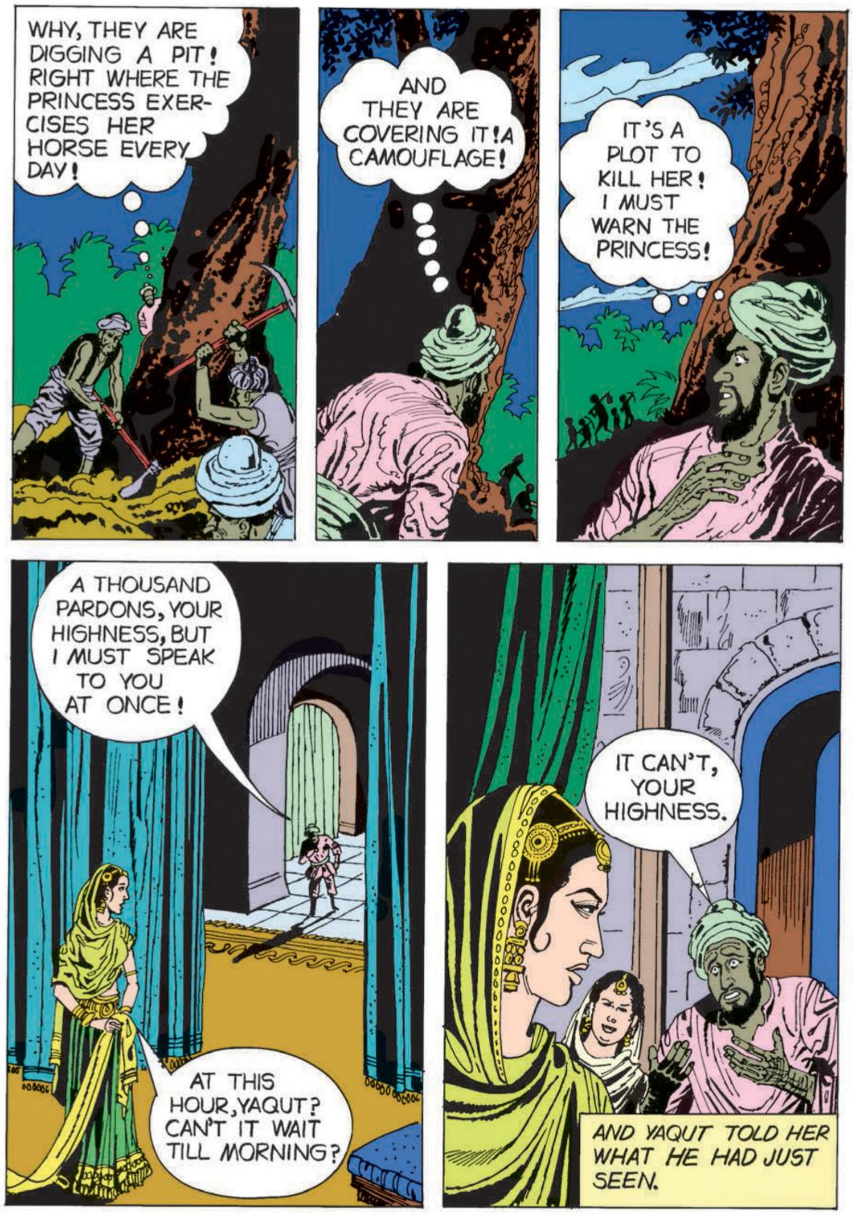

LATER —
WHY DID YOU SURRENDER, NOBLE PRINCESS?
YOU LOVE ME ALTUNIA SO YOU ARE BLIND TO THE PREJUDICES OF MEN AGAINST WOMEN AND WANT ME TO BE QUEEN.
THAT MAY BE TRUE. BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHERS READY TO SUPPORT YOU.
YOU ARE KIND. YET WE MUST NOT BE HASTY. IF IT IS ALLAH'S WILL THAT I SHOULD BE THE SULTANA, NO MAN CAN PREVENT IT.
BUT LET US AT LEAST BE PREPARED FOR ANY PLOT SHAH TURKAN MAY HATCH! I DO NOT TRUST THAT WOMAN.
YOU ARE RIGHT ALTUNIA, BUT WE SHOULD NOT LET IT WORRY US.

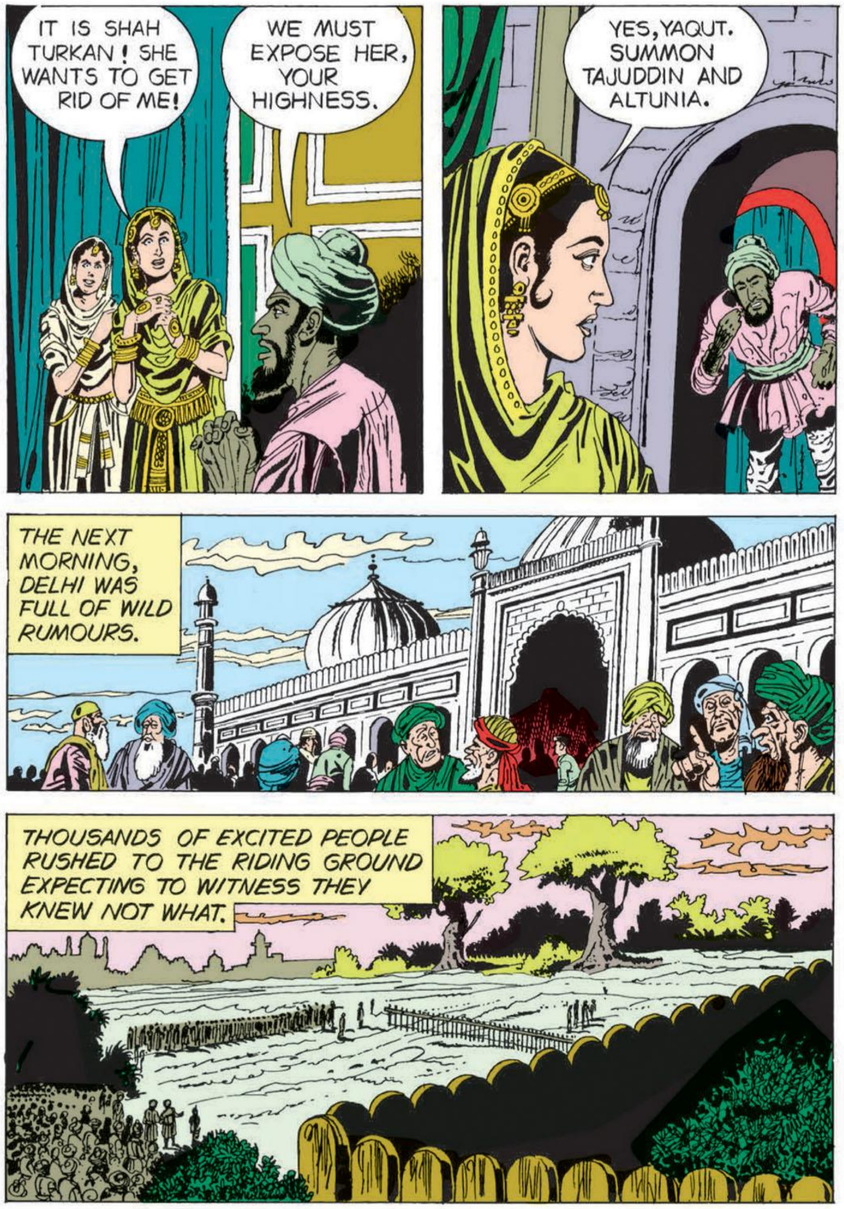

AS ILTUTMISH HAD FORESEEN, RUKNUDDIN LED A LIFE OF PLEASURE, NEGLECTING THE AFFAIRS OF STATE.
THE GOVERNORS OF LAHORE AND HANSI WOULD LIKE AN AUDIENCE WITH YOUR MAJESTY.
TELL THEM I AM BUSY. I HAVE NO TIME TO MEET THEM.

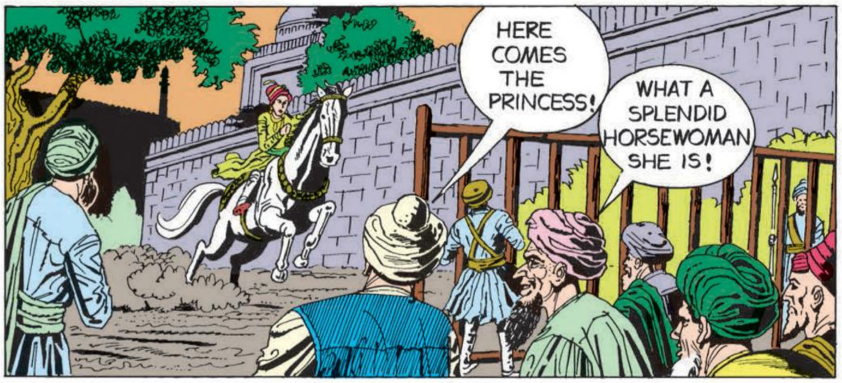

WHY DON'T YOU MEET THEM, YOUR MAJESTY? I BESEECH YOU TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO STATE AFFAIRS.
AND I BESEECH YOU NOT TO BE IRKSOME.

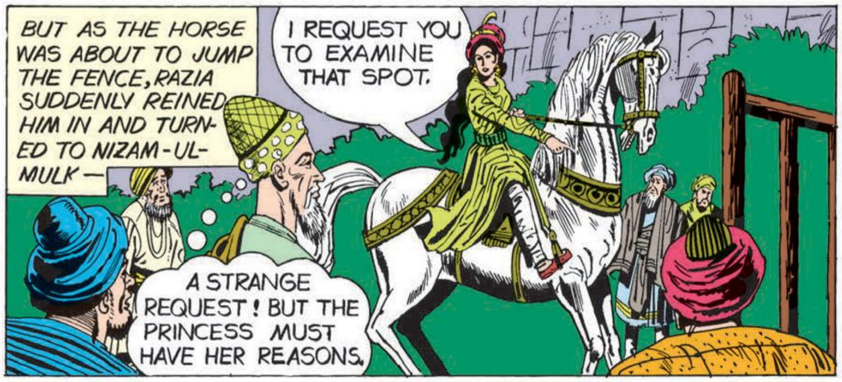

MEANWHILE, SHAH TURKAN GREW JEALOUS OF HER STEP-DAUGHTER, RAZIA'S INCREASING POPULARITY WITH THE SUBJECTS.
I MUST GET RID OF RAZIA.

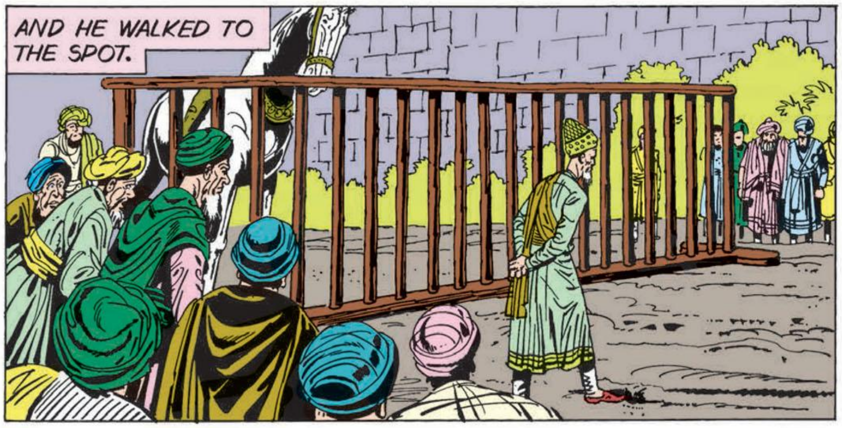

ONE DARK NIGHT, AS JAMAL-UD-DIN YAQUT, THE KEEPER OF THE ROYAL STABLES, WAS WALKING HURRIEDLY TOWARDS THE PALACE—
HOW CARELESS OF ME TO HAVE FORGOTTEN TO TIE THE PRINCESS' HORSE…
HEY! WHAT ARE THOSE MEN UP TO?

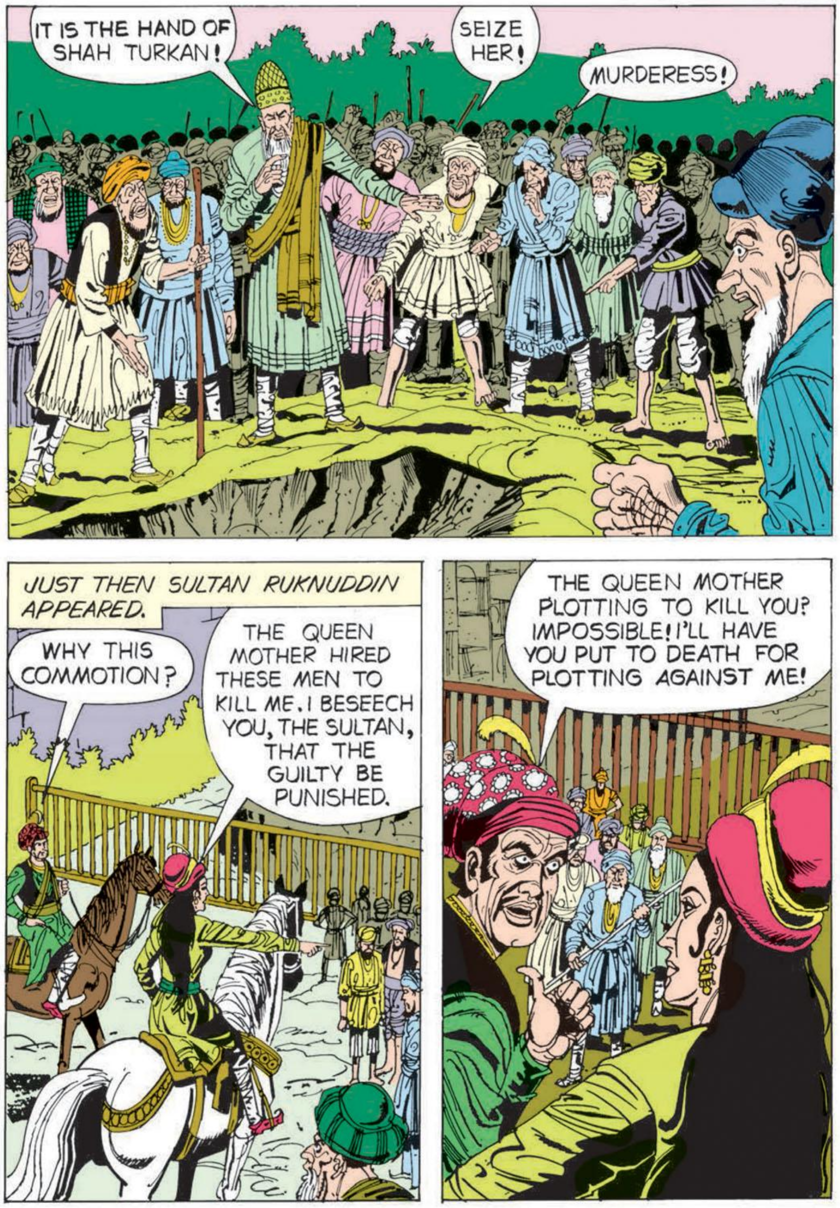

WHY, THEY ARE DIGGING A PIT! RIGHT WHERE THE PRINCESS EXERCISES HER HORSE EVERY DAY!
AND THEY ARE COVERING IT! A CAMOUFLAGE!
IT'S A PLOT TO KILL HER! I MUST WARN THE PRINCESS!
A THOUSAND PARDONS, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT I MUST SPEAK TO YOU AT ONCE!
AT THIS HOUR, YAQUT? CAN'T IT WAIT TILL MORNING?
IT CAN'T, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AND YAQUT TOLD HER WHAT HE HAD JUST SEEN.

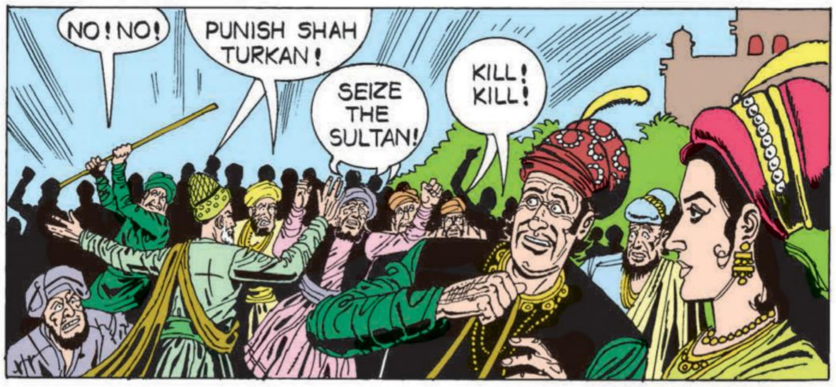

IT IS SHAH TURKAN! SHE WANTS TO GET RID OF ME!
WE MUST EXPOSE HER, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YES, YAQUT. SUMMON TAJUDDIN AND ALTUNIA.
THE NEXT MORNING, DELHI WAS FULL OF WILD RUMOURS.
THOUSANDS OF EXCITED PEOPLE RUSHED TO THE RIDING GROUND EXPECTING TO WITNESS THEY KNEW NOT WHAT.

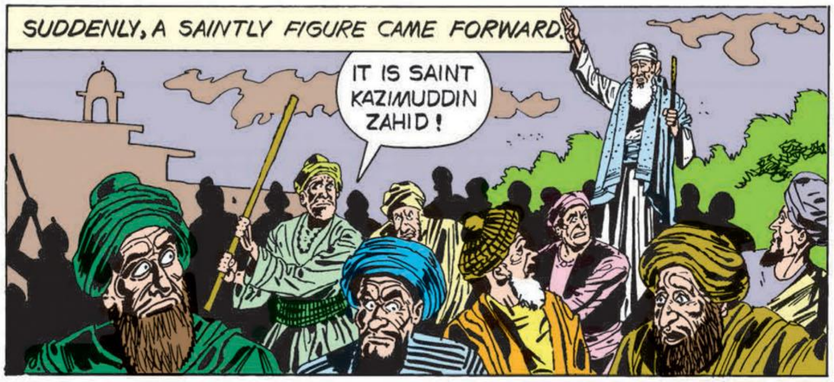

HERE COMES THE PRINCESS!
WHAT A SPLENDID HORSEWOMAN SHE IS!

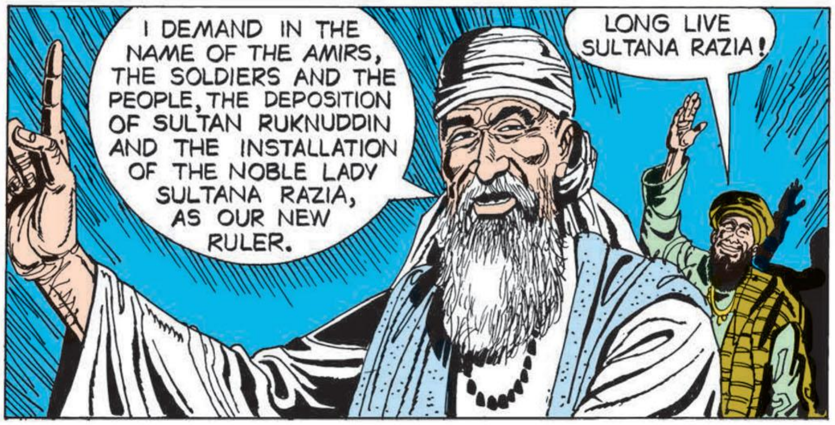

BUT AS THE HORSE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP THE FENCE, RAZIA SUDDENLY REINED HIM IN AND TURNED TO NIZAM-UL-MULK —
I REQUEST YOU TO EXAMINE THAT SPOT.
A STRANGE REQUEST! BUT THE PRINCESS MUST HAVE HER REASONS.

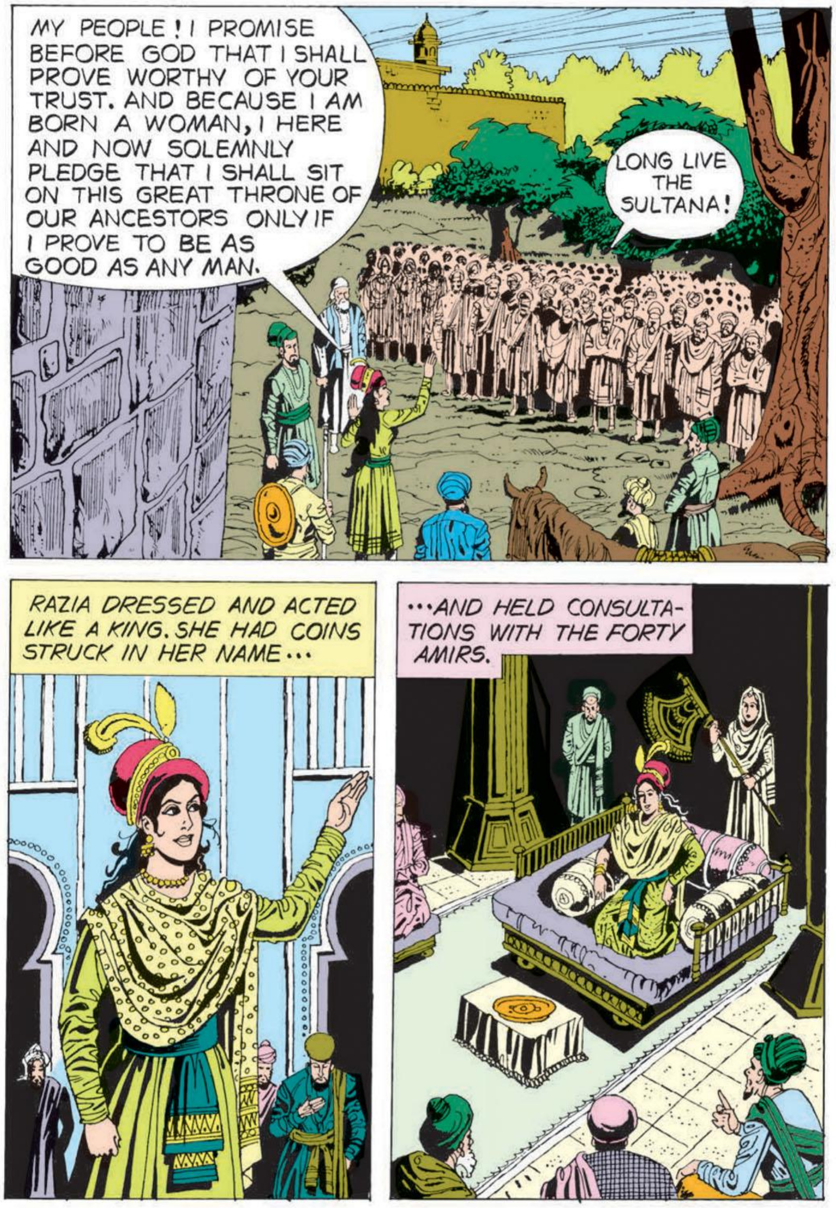

AND HE WALKED TO THE SPOT.

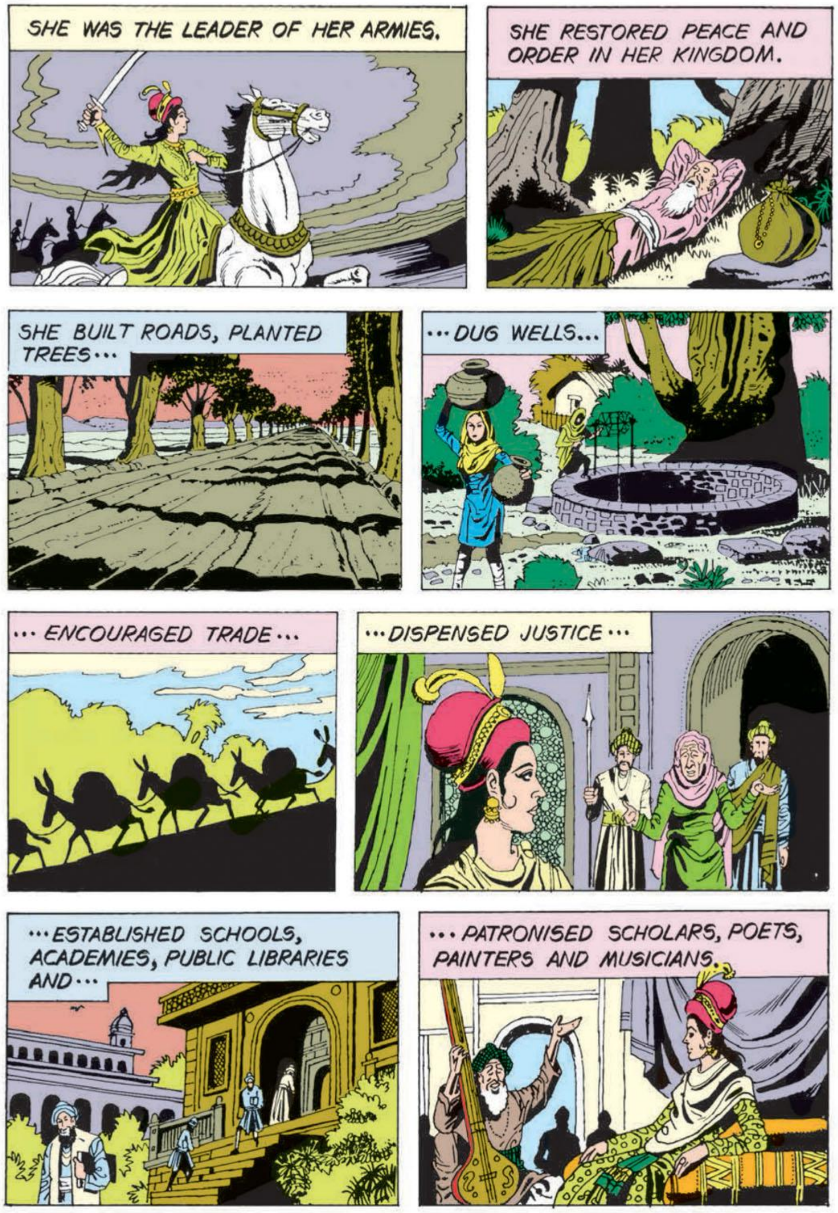

IT IS THE HAND OF SHAH TURKAN!
SEIZE HER!
MURDERESS!
JUST THEN SULTAN RUKNUDDIN APPEARED.
WHY THIS COMMOTION?
THE QUEEN MOTHER HIRED THESE MEN TO KILL ME. I BESEECH YOU, THE SULTAN, THAT THE GUILTY BE PUNISHED.
THE QUEEN MOTHER PLOTTING TO KILL YOU? IMPOSSIBLE! I'LL HAVE YOU PUT TO DEATH FOR PLOTTING AGAINST ME!

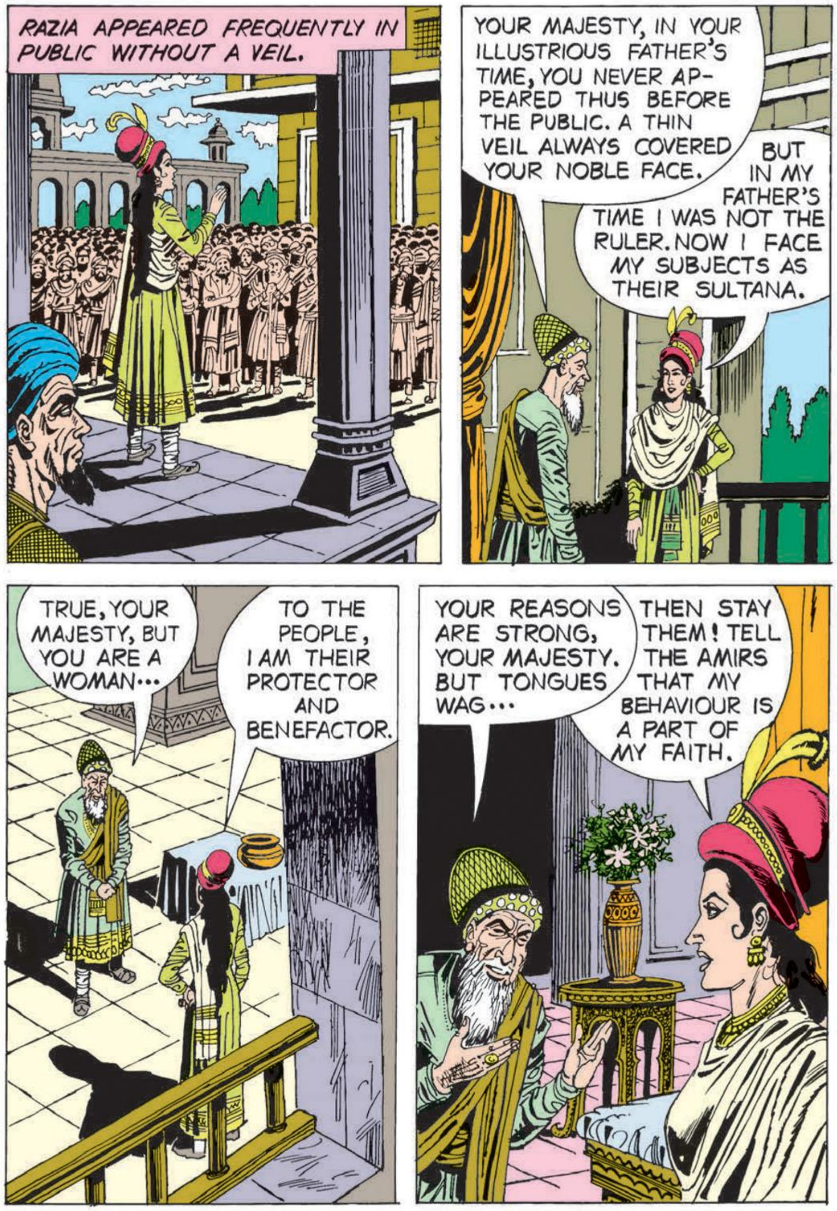

NO! NO!
PUNISH SHAH TURKAN!
SEIZE THE SULTAN!
KILL! KILL!

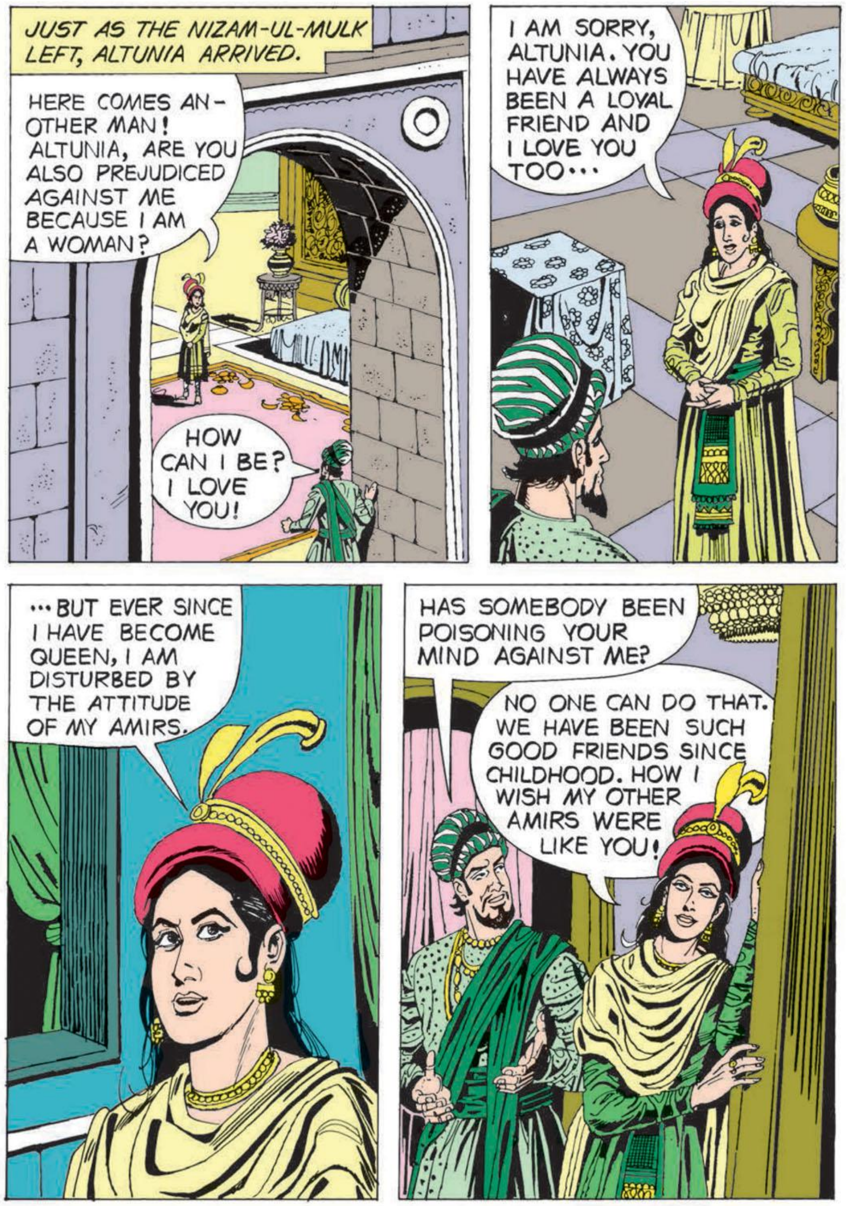

SUDDENLY, A SAINTLY FIGURE CAME FORWARD.
IT IS SAINT KAZIMUDDIN ZAHID!

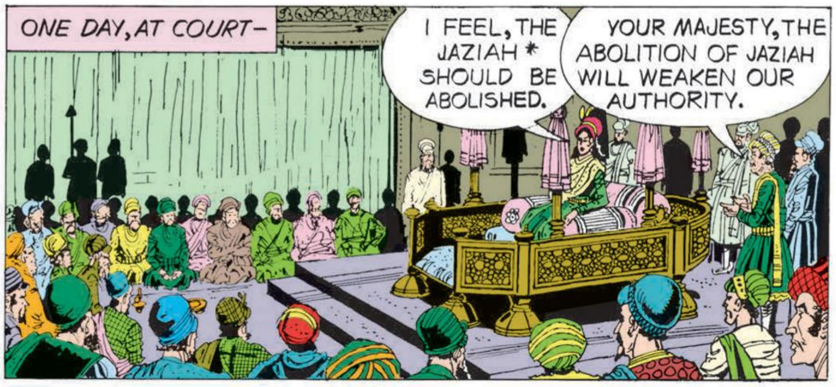

I DEMAND IN THE NAME OF THE AMIRS, THE SOLDIERS AND THE PEOPLE, THE DEPOSITION OF SULTAN RUKNUDDIN AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE NOBLE LADY SULTANA RAZIA, AS OUR NEW RULER.
LONG LIVE SULTANA RAZIA!

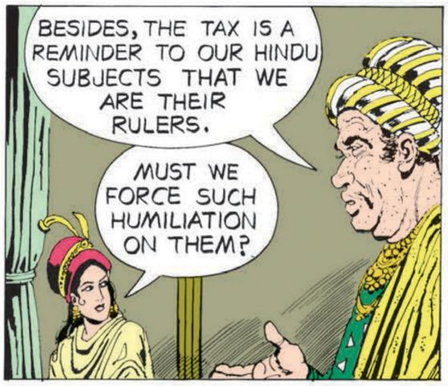

MY PEOPLE ! I PROMISE BEFORE GOD THAT I SHALL PROVE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST. AND BECAUSE I AM BORN A WOMAN, I HERE AND NOW SOLEMNLY PLEDGE THAT I SHALL SIT ON THIS GREAT THRONE OF OUR ANCESTORS ONLY IF I PROVE TO BE AS GOOD AS ANY MAN.
LONG LIVE THE SULTANA!
RAZIA DRESSED AND ACTED LIKE A KING. SHE HAD COINS STRUCK IN HER NAME...
...AND HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FORTY AMIRS.

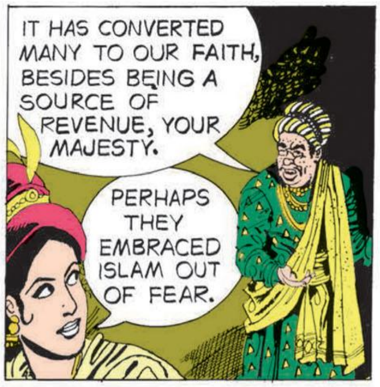

SHE WAS THE LEADER OF HER ARMIES.
SHE RESTORED PEACE AND ORDER IN HER KINGDOM.
SHE BUILT ROADS, PLANTED TREES...
...DUG WELLS...
...ENCOURAGED TRADE...
...DISPENSED JUSTICE...
...ESTABLISHED SCHOOLS, ACADEMIES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND...
...PATRONISED SCHOLARS, POETS, PAINTERS AND MUSICIANS.

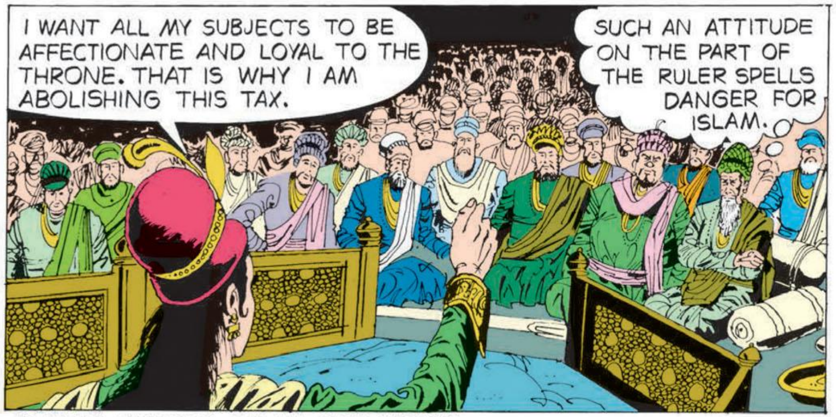

RAZIA APPEARED FREQUENTLY IN PUBLIC WITHOUT A VEIL.
YOUR MAJESTY, IN YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER'S TIME, YOU NEVER APPEARED THUS BEFORE THE PUBLIC. A THIN VEIL ALWAYS COVERED YOUR NOBLE FACE.
BUT IN MY FATHER'S TIME I WAS NOT THE RULER. NOW I FACE MY SUBJECTS AS THEIR SULTANA.
TRUE, YOUR MAJESTY, BUT YOU ARE A WOMAN...
TO THE PEOPLE, I AM THEIR PROTECTOR AND BENEFACTOR.
YOUR REASONS ARE STRONG, YOUR MAJESTY. BUT TONGUES WAG...
THEN STAY THEM! TELL THE AMIRS THAT MY BEHAVIOUR IS A PART OF MY FAITH.


JUST AS THE NIZAM-UL-MULK LEFT, ALTUNIA ARRIVED.
HERE COMES ANOTHER MAN! ALTUNIA, ARE YOU ALSO PREJUDICED AGAINST ME BECAUSE I AM A WOMAN?
HOW CAN I BE? I LOVE YOU!
I AM SORRY, ALTUNIA. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A LOYAL FRIEND AND I LOVE YOU TOO...
...BUT EVER SINCE I HAVE BECOME QUEEN, I AM DISTURBED BY THE ATTITUDE OF MY AMIRS.
HAS SOMEBODY BEEN POISONING YOUR MIND AGAINST ME?
NO ONE CAN DO THAT. WE HAVE BEEN SUCH GOOD FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD. HOW I WISH MY OTHER AMIRS WERE LIKE YOU!


ONE DAY, AT COURT–
I FEEL, THE JAZIAH * SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.
YOUR MAJESTY, THE ABOLITION OF JAZIAH WILL WEAKEN OUR AUTHORITY.


BESIDES, THE TAX IS A REMINDER TO OUR HINDU SUBJECTS THAT WE ARE THEIR RULERS.
MUST WE FORCE SUCH HUMILIATION ON THEM?


IT HAS CONVERTED MANY TO OUR FAITH, BESIDES BEING A SOURCE OF REVENUE, YOUR MAJESTY.
PERHAPS THEY EMBRACED ISLAM OUT OF FEAR.


I WANT ALL MY SUBJECTS TO BE AFFECTIONATE AND LOYAL TO THE THRONE. THAT IS WHY I AM ABOLISHING THIS TAX.
SUCH AN ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE RULER SPELLS DANGER FOR ISLAM.

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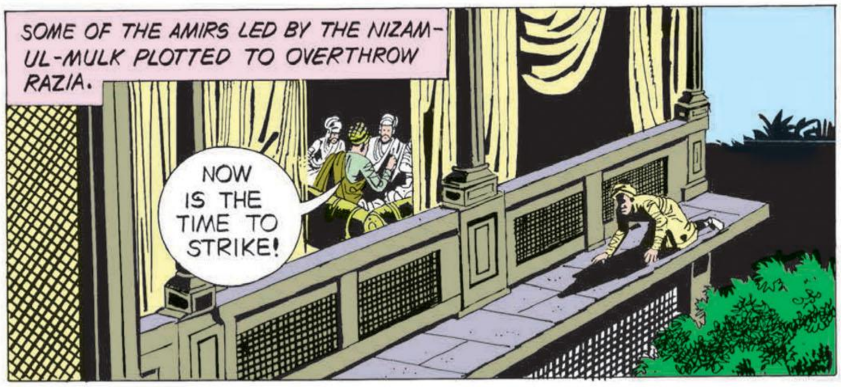
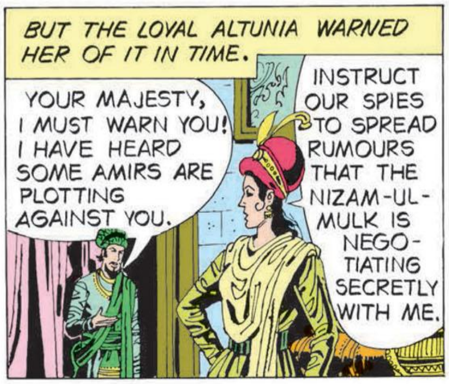
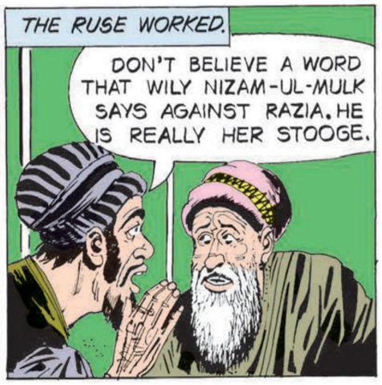
* A TAX IMPOSED ON ALL NON-MUSLIMS


SOME OF THE AMIRS LED BY THE NIZAM-UL-MULK PLOTTED TO OVERTHROW RAZIA.

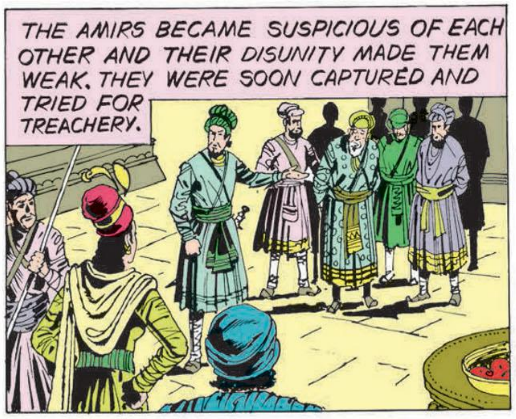
NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIKE!

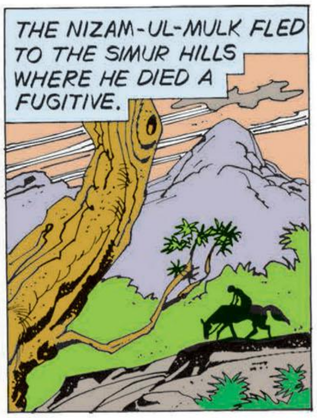

BUT THE LOYAL ALTUNIA WARNED HER OF IT IN TIME.

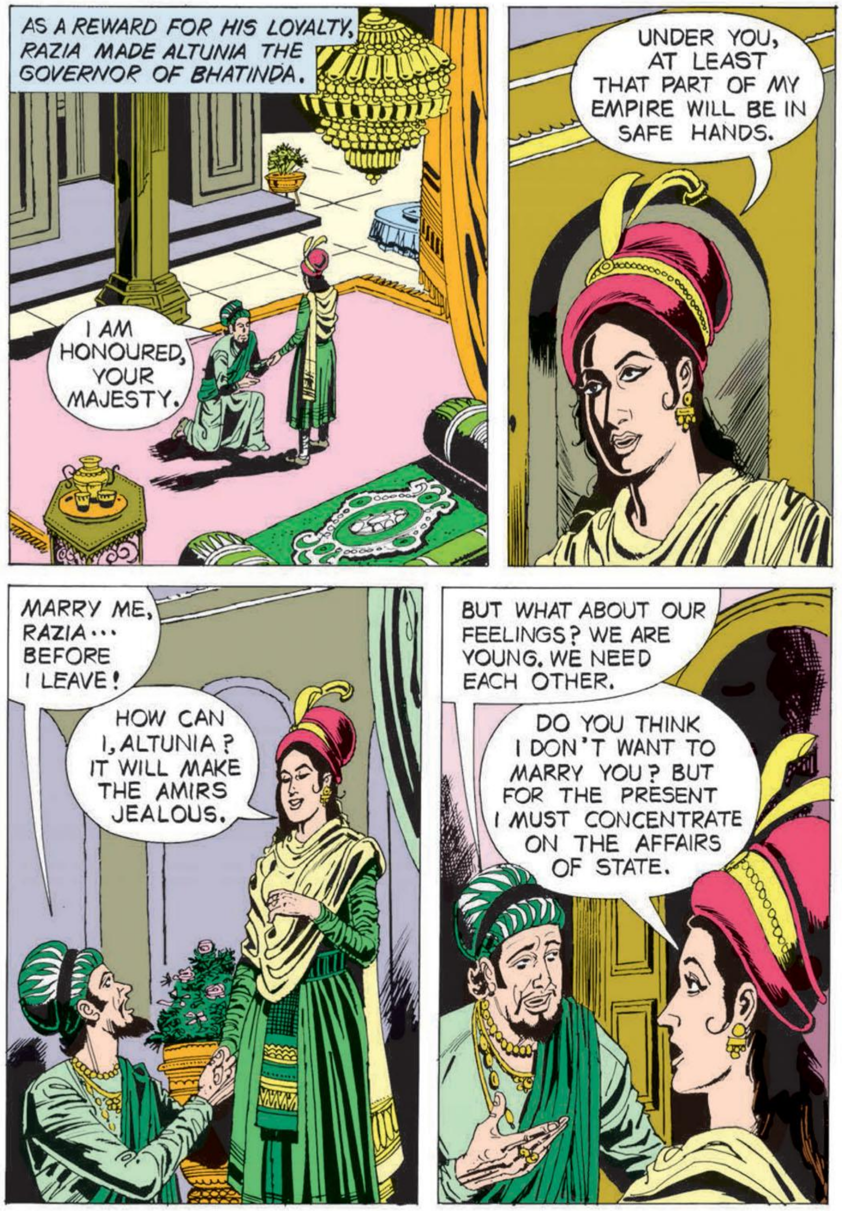
YOUR MAJESTY, I MUST WARN YOU! I HAVE HEARD SOME AMIRS ARE PLOTTING AGAINST YOU.
INSTRUCT OUR SPIES TO SPREAD RUMOURS THAT THE NIZAM-UL-MULK IS NEGOTIATING SECRETLY WITH ME.

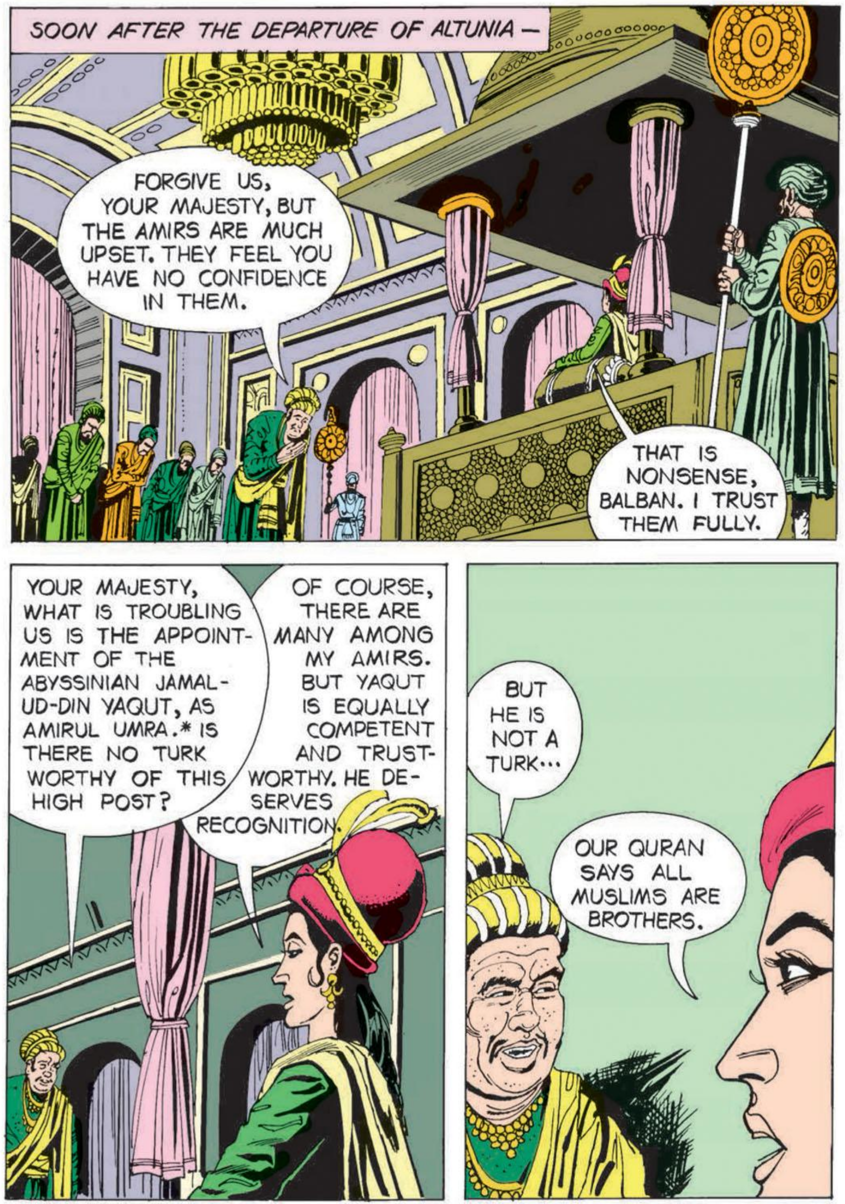

THE RUSE WORKED.

DON'T BELIEVE A WORD THAT WILY NIZAM-UL-MULK SAYS AGAINST RAZIA. HE IS REALLY HER STOOGE.

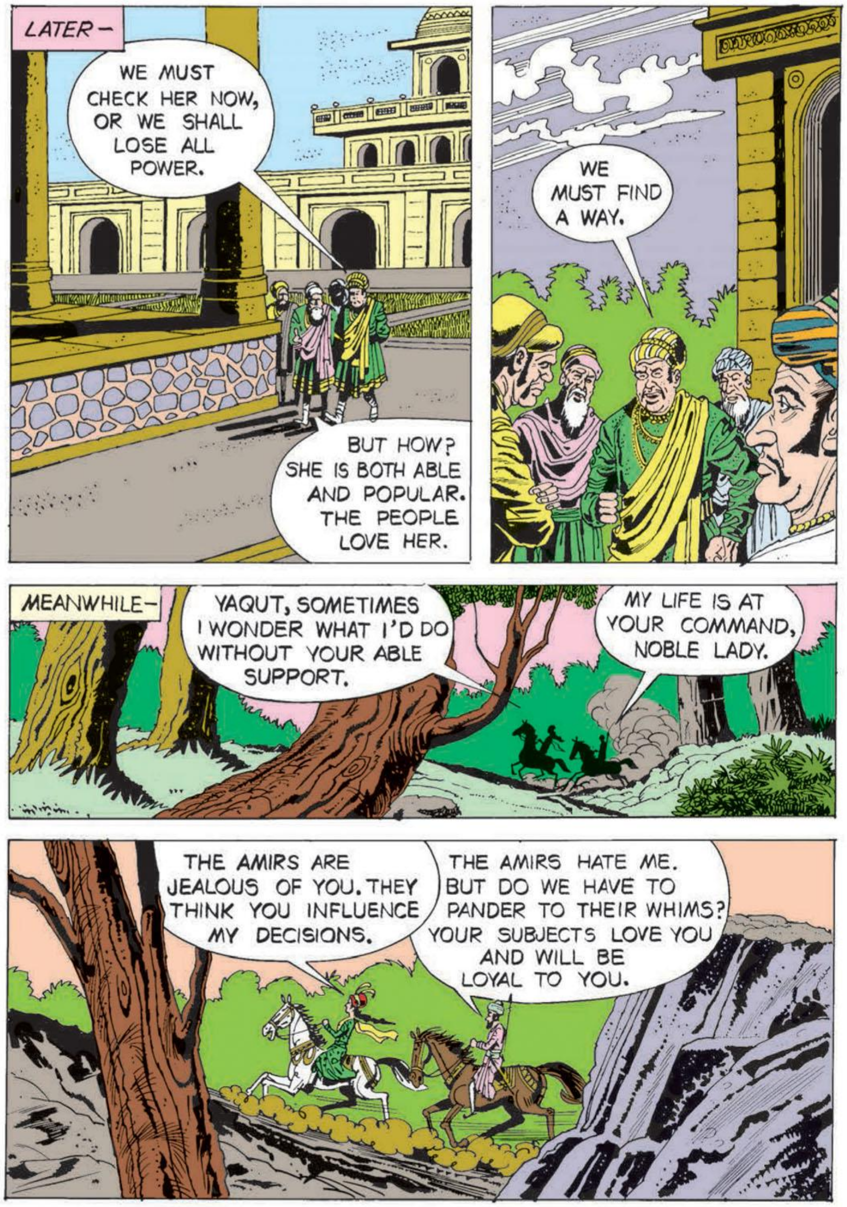

THE AMIRS BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF EACH OTHER AND THEIR DISUNITY MADE THEM WEAK. THEY WERE SOON CAPTURED AND TRIED FOR TREACHERY.

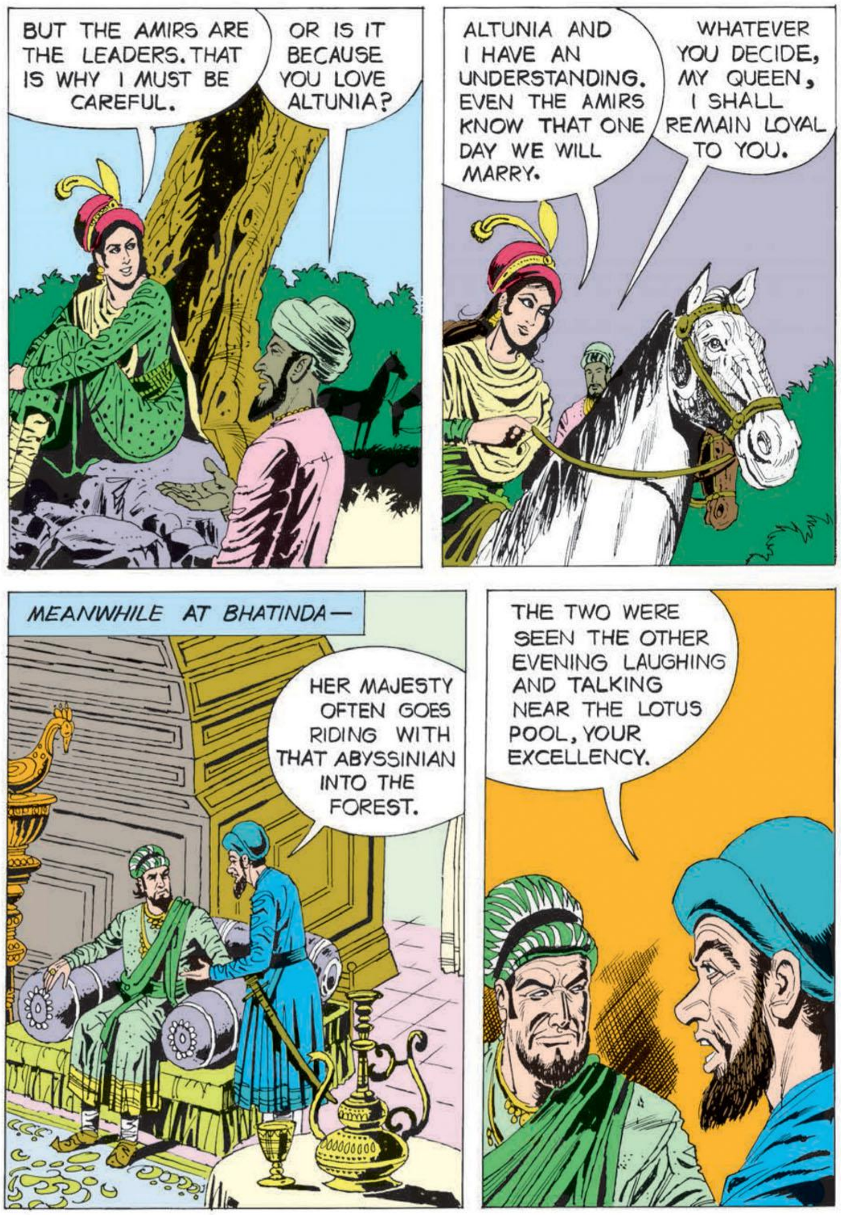

THE NIZAM-UL-MULK FLED TO THE SIMUR HILLS WHERE HE DIED A FUGITIVE.

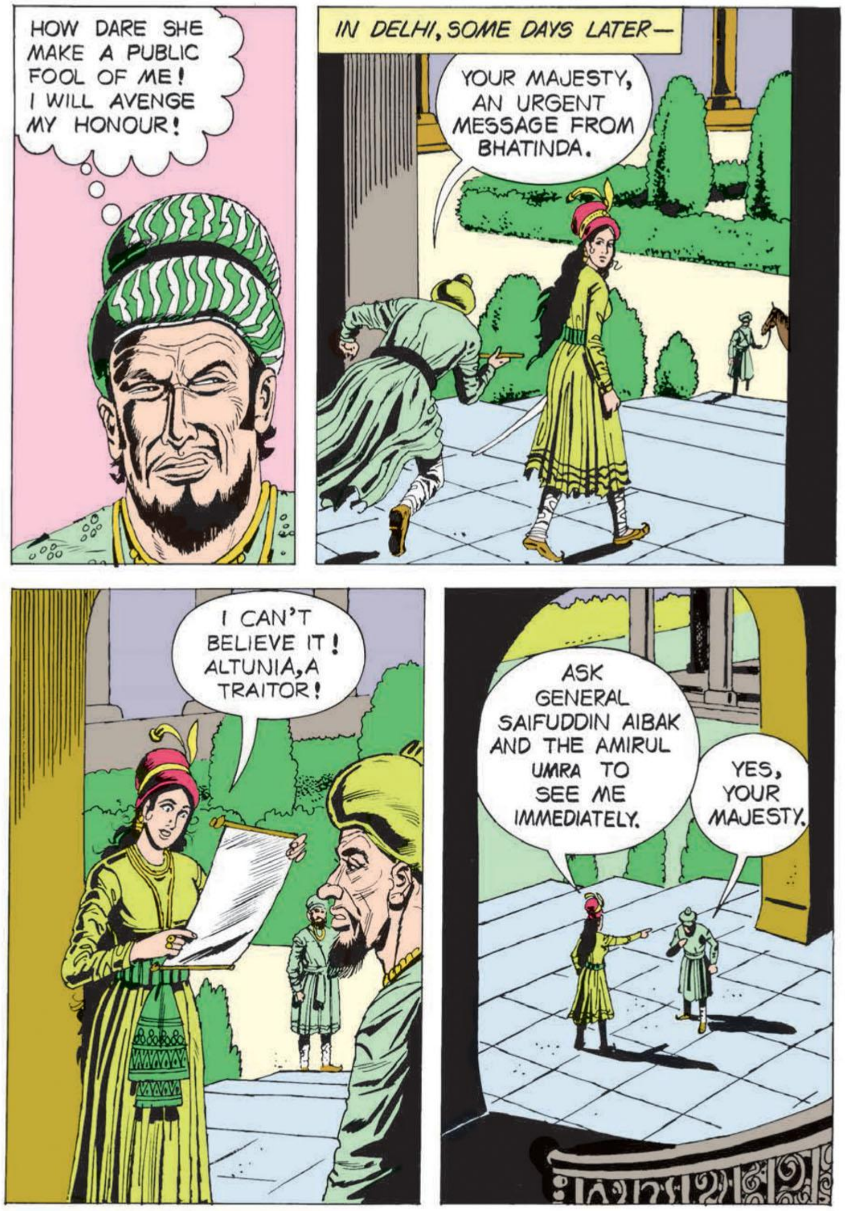

AS A REWARD FOR HIS LOYALTY, RAZIA MADE ALTUNIA THE GOVERNOR OF BHATINDA.
I AM HONOURED, YOUR MAJESTY.
UNDER YOU, AT LEAST THAT PART OF MY EMPIRE WILL BE IN SAFE HANDS.
MARRY ME, RAZIA... BEFORE I LEAVE!
HOW CAN I, ALTUNIA? IT WILL MAKE THE AMIRS JEALOUS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR FEELINGS? WE ARE YOUNG. WE NEED EACH OTHER.
DO YOU THINK I DON'T WANT TO MARRY YOU? BUT FOR THE PRESENT I MUST CONCENTRATE ON THE AFFAIRS OF STATE.

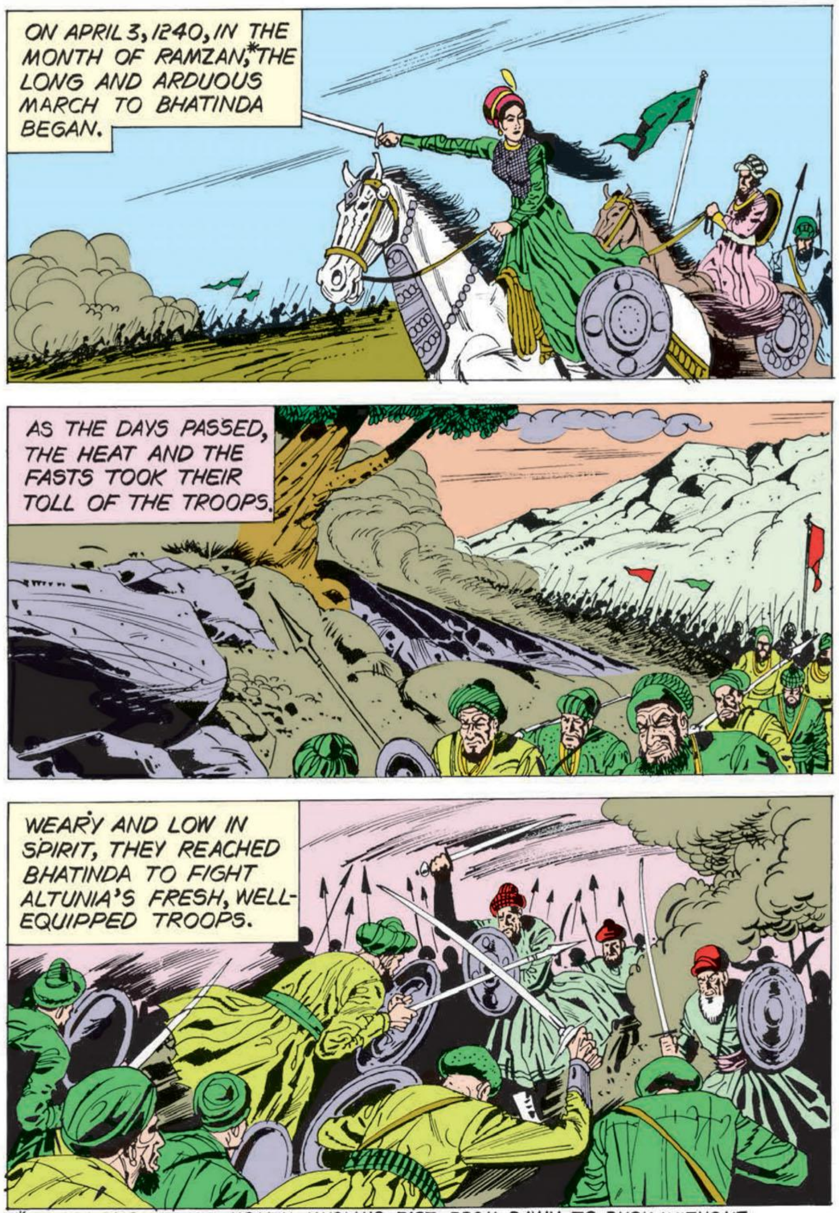

SOON AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF ALTUNIA —
FORGIVE US, YOUR MAJESTY, BUT THE AMIRS ARE MUCH UPSET. THEY FEEL YOU HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THEM.
THAT IS NONSENSE, BALBAN. I TRUST THEM FULLY.
YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT IS TROUBLING US IS THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ABYSSINIAN JAMAL-UD-DIN YAQUT, AS AMIRUL UMRA.* IS THERE NO TURK WORTHY OF THIS HIGH POST?
OF COURSE, THERE ARE MANY AMONG MY AMIRS. BUT YAQUT IS EQUALLY COMPETENT AND TRUSTWORTHY. HE DESERVES RECOGNITION.
BUT HE IS NOT A TURK...
OUR QURAN SAYS ALL MUSLIMS ARE BROTHERS.

* *CHIEF OF NOBLES.*


LATER –
WE MUST CHECK HER NOW, OR WE SHALL LOSE ALL POWER.
BUT HOW? SHE IS BOTH ABLE AND POPULAR. THE PEOPLE LOVE HER.
WE MUST FIND A WAY.
MEANWHILE –
YAQUT, SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOUR ABLE SUPPORT.
MY LIFE IS AT YOUR COMMAND, NOBLE LADY.
THE AMIRS ARE JEALOUS OF YOU. THEY THINK YOU INFLUENCE MY DECISIONS.
THE AMIRS HATE ME. BUT DO WE HAVE TO PANDER TO THEIR WHIMS? YOUR SUBJECTS LOVE YOU AND WILL BE LOYAL TO YOU.


BUT THE AMIRS ARE THE LEADERS. THAT IS WHY I MUST BE CAREFUL.
OR IS IT BECAUSE YOU LOVE ALTUNIA?
ALTUNIA AND I HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING. EVEN THE AMIRS KNOW THAT ONE DAY WE WILL MARRY.
WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, MY QUEEN, I SHALL REMAIN LOYAL TO YOU.
MEANWHILE AT BHATINDA—
HER MAJESTY OFTEN GOES RIDING WITH THAT ABYSSINIAN INTO THE FOREST.
THE TWO WERE SEEN THE OTHER EVENING LAUGHING AND TALKING NEAR THE LOTUS POOL, YOUR EXCELLENCY.


HOW DARE SHE MAKE A PUBLIC FOOL OF ME! I WILL AVENGE MY HONOUR!
IN DELHI, SOME DAYS LATER—
YOUR MAJESTY, AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM BHATINDA.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ALTUNIA, A TRAITOR!
ASK GENERAL SAIFUDDIN AIBAK AND THE AMIRUL UMRA TO SEE ME IMMEDIATELY.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.


ON APRIL 3, 1240, IN THE MONTH OF RAMZAN,* THE LONG AND ARDUOUS MARCH TO BHATINDA BEGAN.
AS THE DAYS PASSED, THE HEAT AND THE FASTS TOOK THEIR TOLL OF THE TROOPS.
WEARY AND LOW IN SPIRIT, THEY REACHED BHATINDA TO FIGHT ALTUNIA'S FRESH, WELL-EQUIPPED TROOPS.

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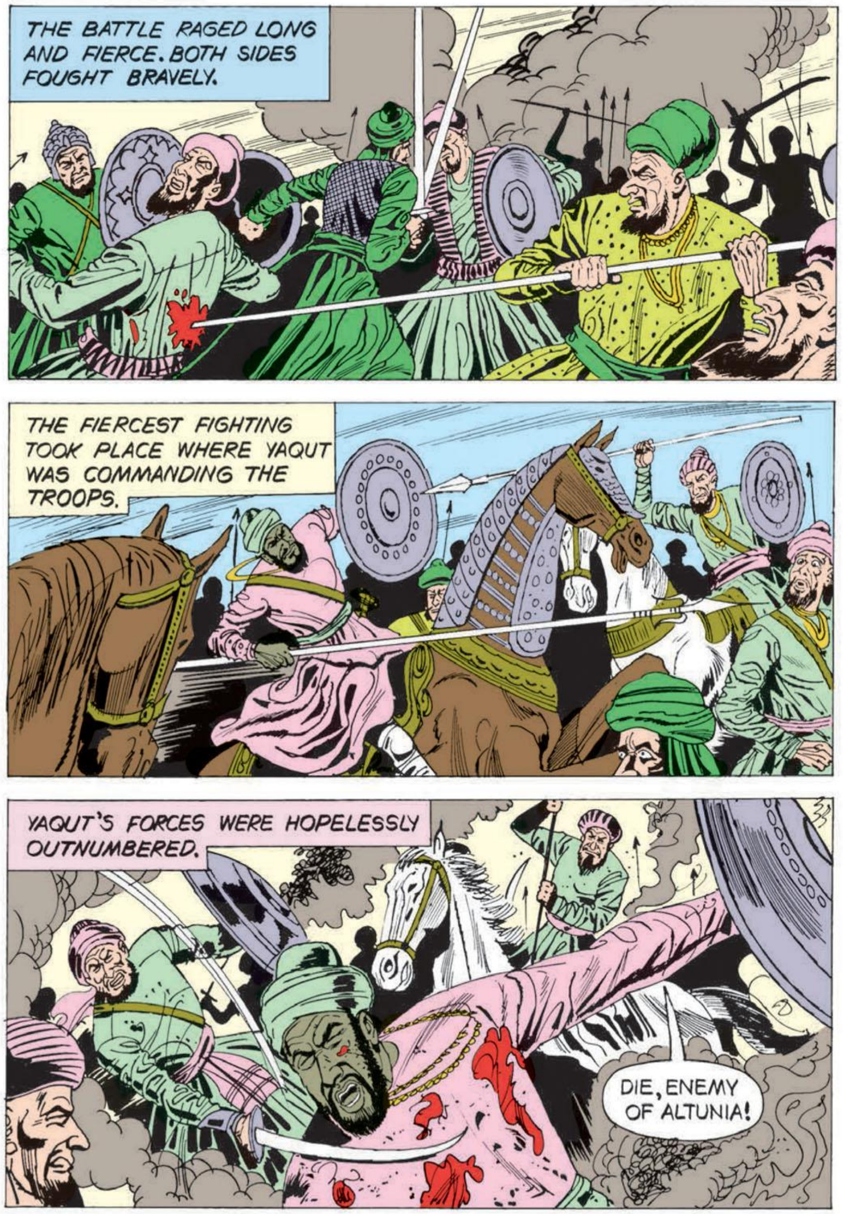
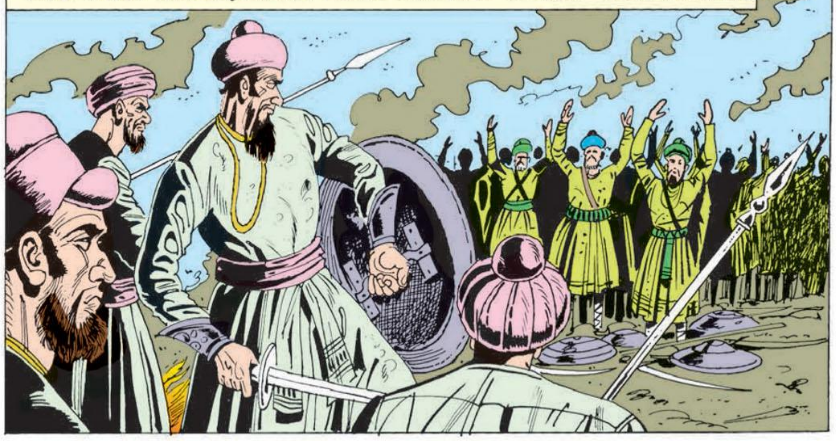
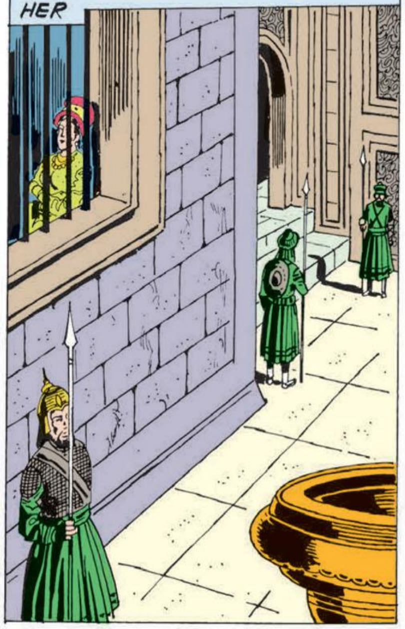
* THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH, MUSLIMS FAST FROM DAWN TO DUSK, WITHOUT DRINKING EVEN WATER.

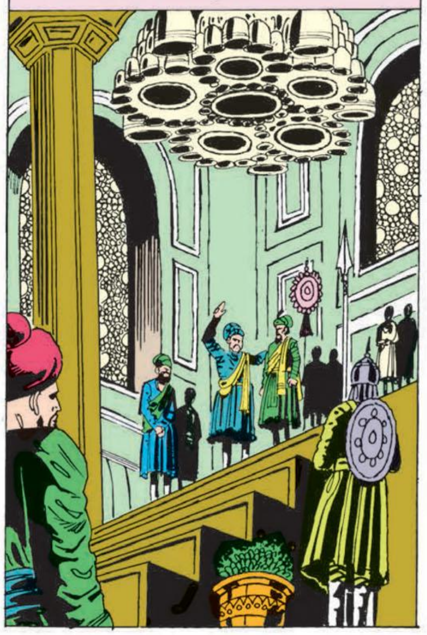

THE BATTLE RAGED LONG AND FIERCE. BOTH SIDES FOUGHT BRAVELY.
THE FIERCEST FIGHTING TOOK PLACE WHERE YAQUT WAS COMMANDING THE TROOPS.
YAQUT'S FORCES WERE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED.
DIE, ENEMY OF ALTUNIA!



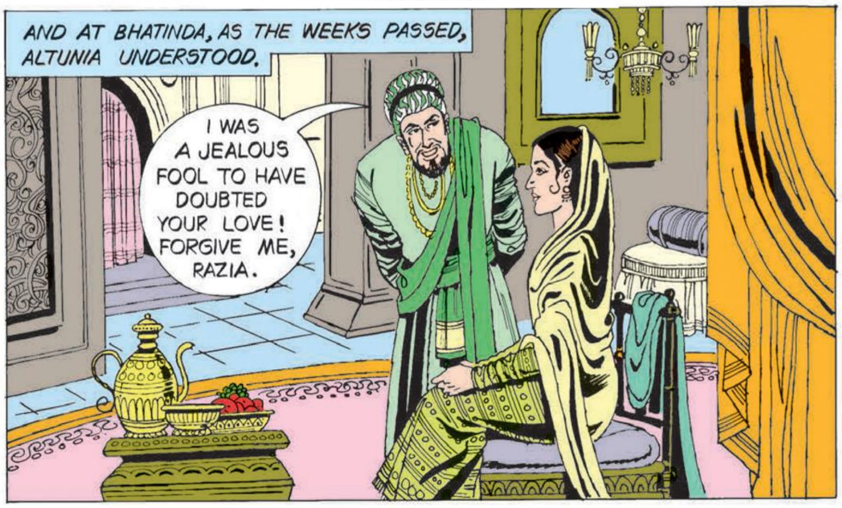
WITH YAQUT KILLED, RAZIA'S PANIC-STRICKEN TROOPS SURRENDERED.

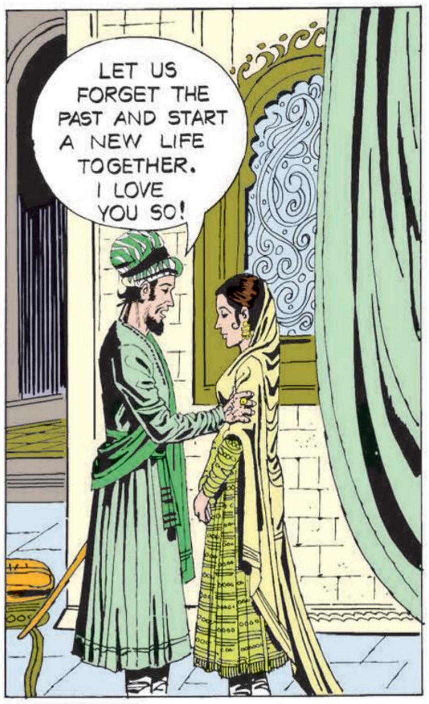


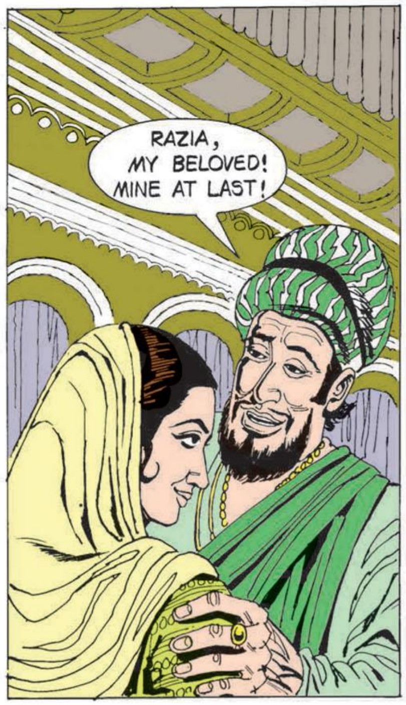
RAZIA WAS CAPTURED AND MADE A PRISONER OF ALTUNIA, THE MAN WHO HAD DECLARED HE LOVED HER

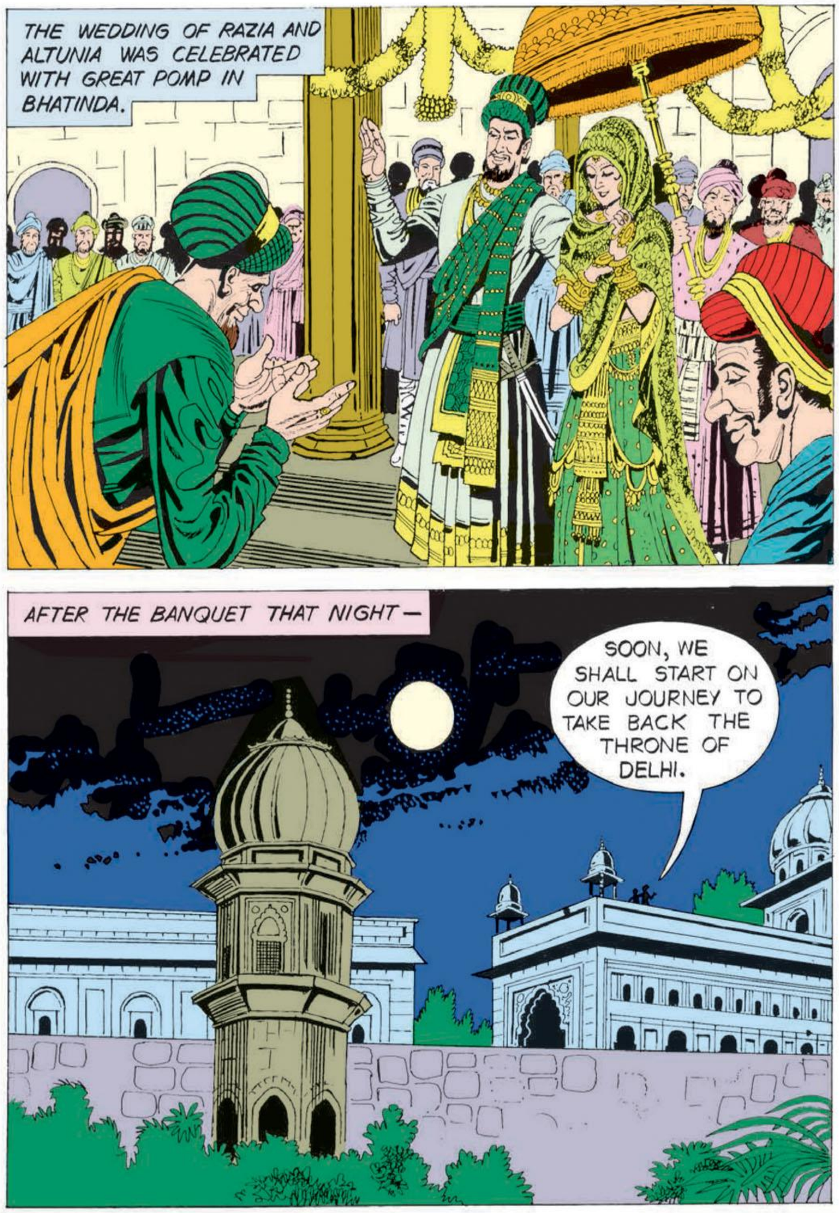


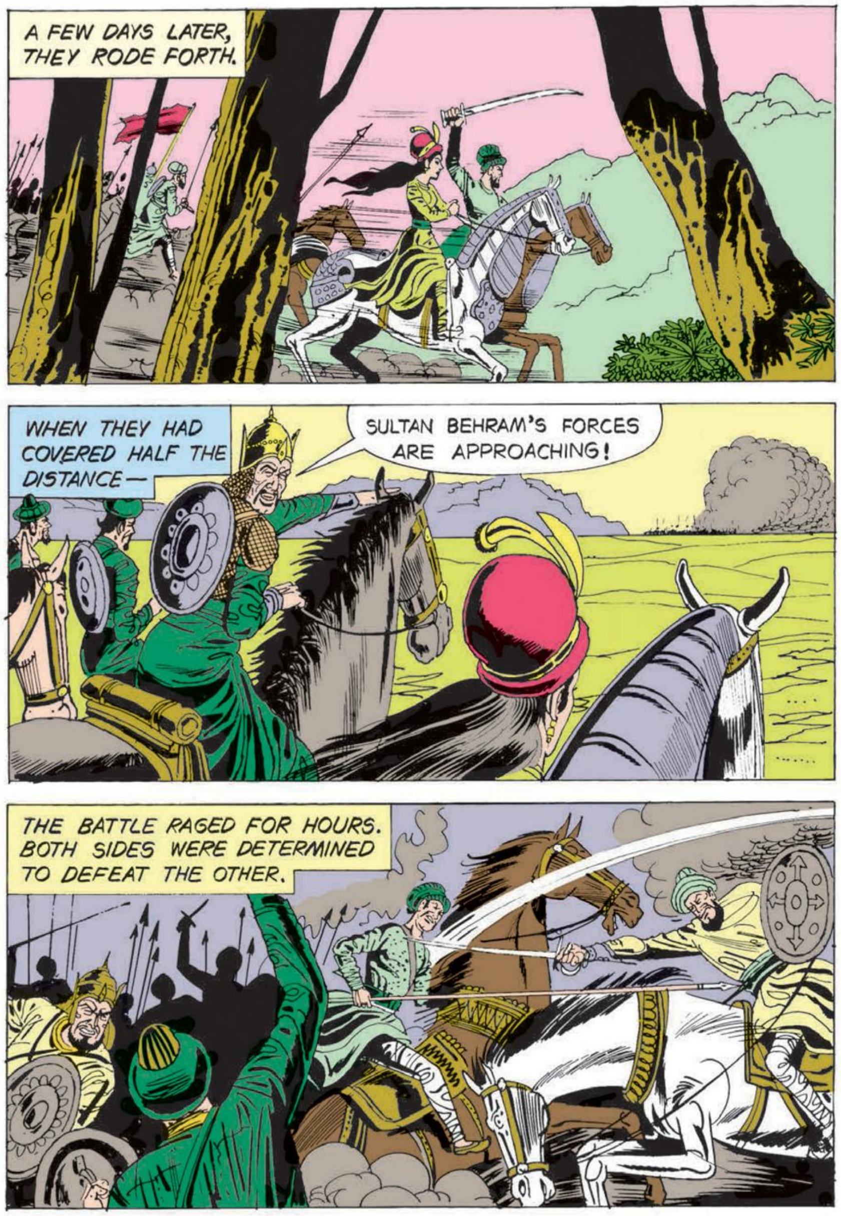
AT DELHI, ON RAZIA'S DEFEAT, THE FORTY AMIRS PROCLAIMED HER HALF-BROTHER BEHRAM, SULTAN.

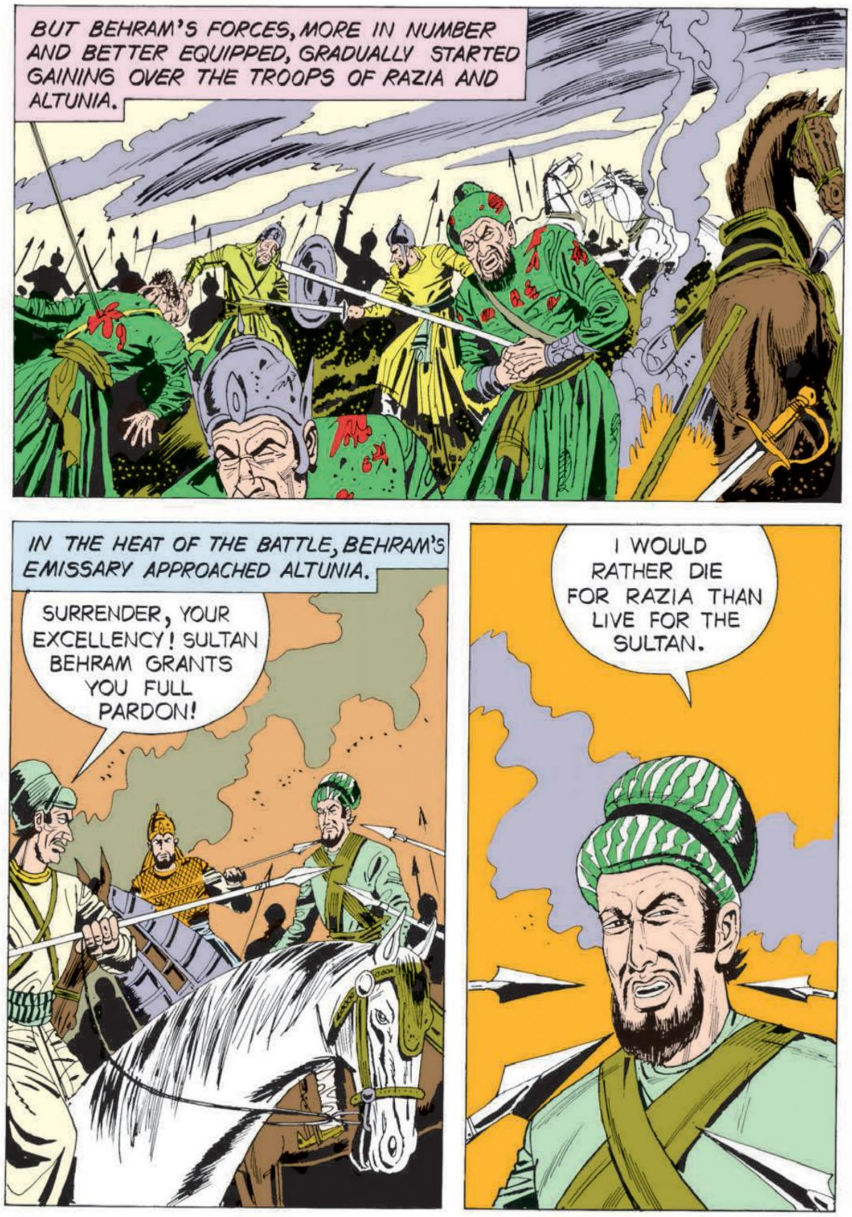

AND AT BHATINDA, AS THE WEEKS PASSED, ALTUNIA UNDERSTOOD.
I WAS A JEALOUS FOOL TO HAVE DOUBTED YOUR LOVE! FORGIVE ME, RAZIA.

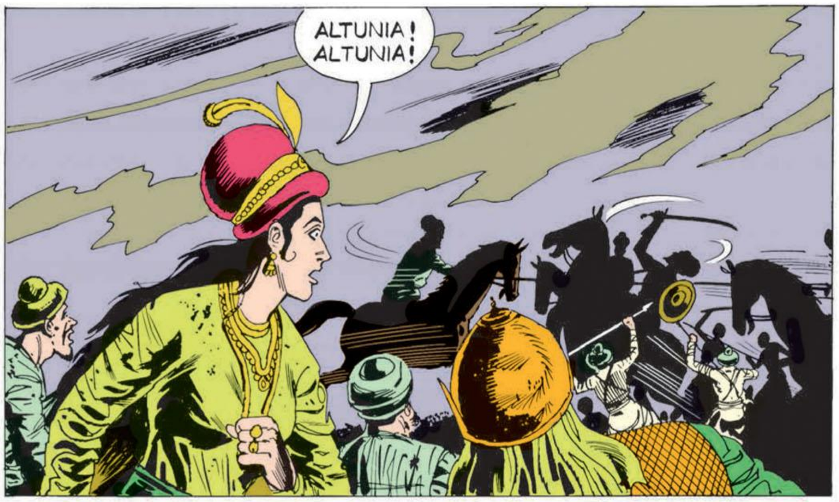

LET US FORGET THE PAST AND START A NEW LIFE TOGETHER. I LOVE YOU SO!

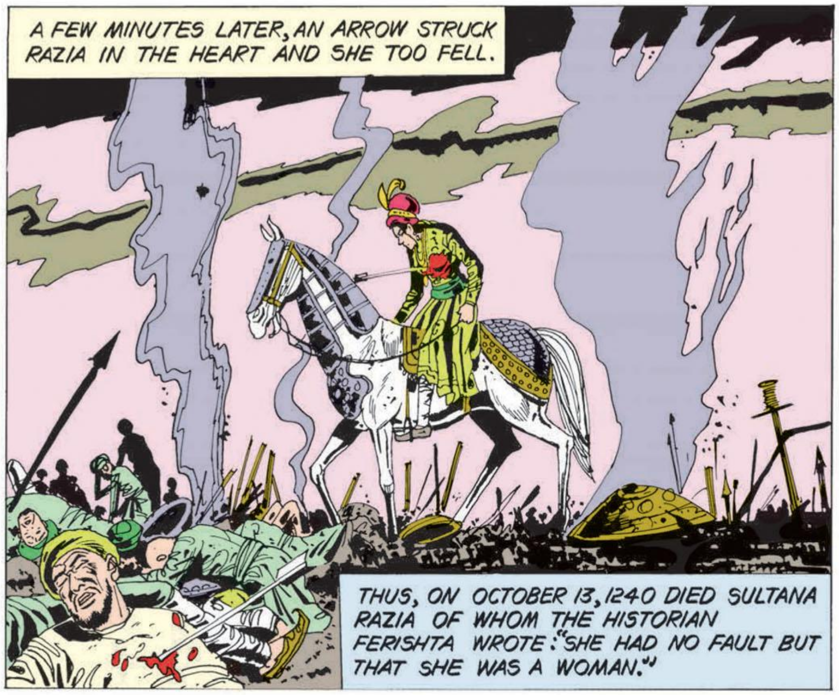

RAZIA, MY BELOVED! MINE AT LAST!


THE WEDDING OF RAZIA AND ALTUNIA WAS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT POMP IN BHATINDA.
AFTER THE BANQUET THAT NIGHT—
SOON, WE SHALL START ON OUR JOURNEY TO TAKE BACK THE THRONE OF DELHI.


A FEW DAYS LATER, THEY RODE FORTH.
WHEN THEY HAD COVERED HALF THE DISTANCE—
SULTAN BEHRAM'S FORCES ARE APPROACHING!
THE BATTLE RAGED FOR HOURS. BOTH SIDES WERE DETERMINED TO DEFEAT THE OTHER.


BUT BEHRAM'S FORCES, MORE IN NUMBER AND BETTER EQUIPPED, GRADUALLY STARTED GAINING OVER THE TROOPS OF RAZIA AND ALTUNIA.
IN THE HEAT OF THE BATTLE, BEHRAM'S EMISSARY APPROACHED ALTUNIA.
SURRENDER, YOUR EXCELLENCY! SULTAN BEHRAM GRANTS YOU FULL PARDON!
I WOULD RATHER DIE FOR RAZIA THAN LIVE FOR THE SULTAN.


ALTUNIA! ALTUNIA!


A FEW MINUTES LATER, AN ARROW STRUCK RAZIA IN THE HEART AND SHE TOO FELL.
THUS, ON OCTOBER 13, 1240 DIED SULTANA RAZIA OF WHOM THE HISTORIAN FERISHTA WROTE: "SHE HAD NO FAULT BUT THAT SHE WAS A WOMAN."

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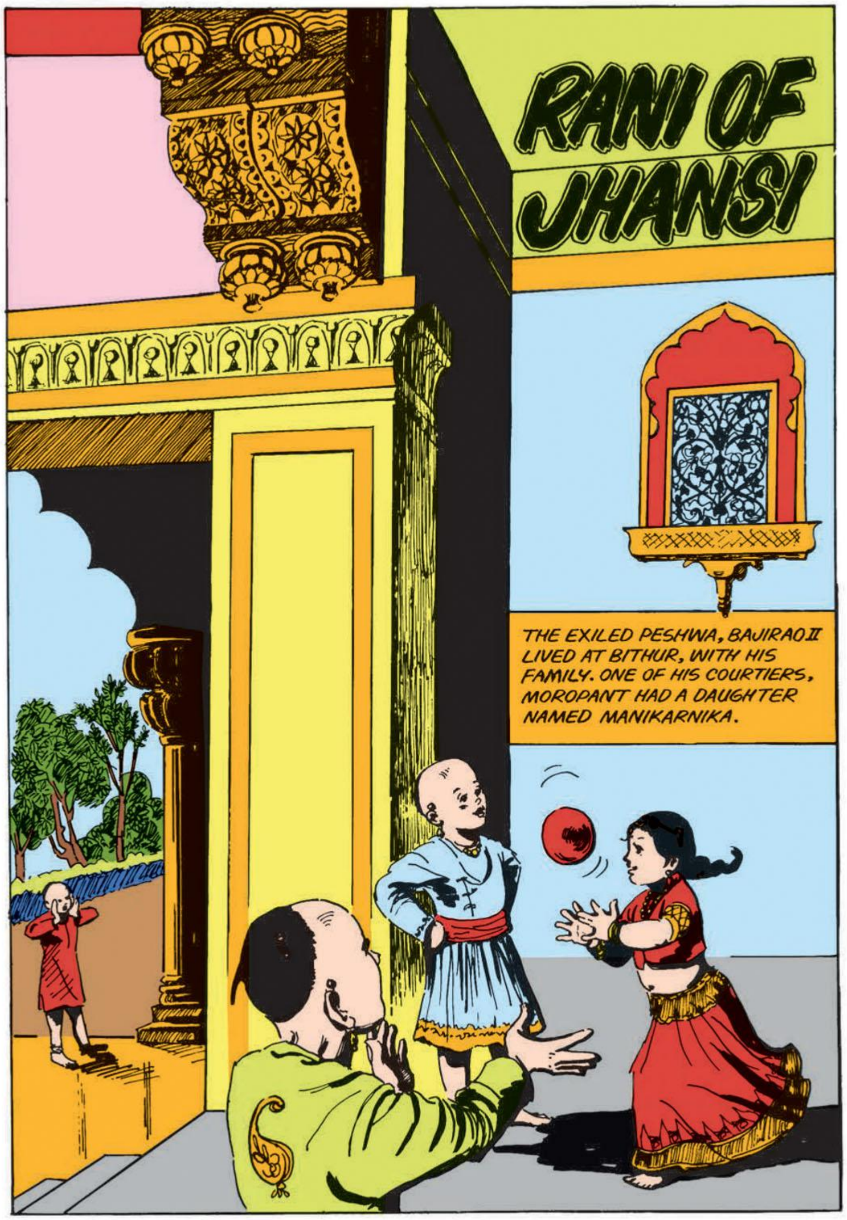
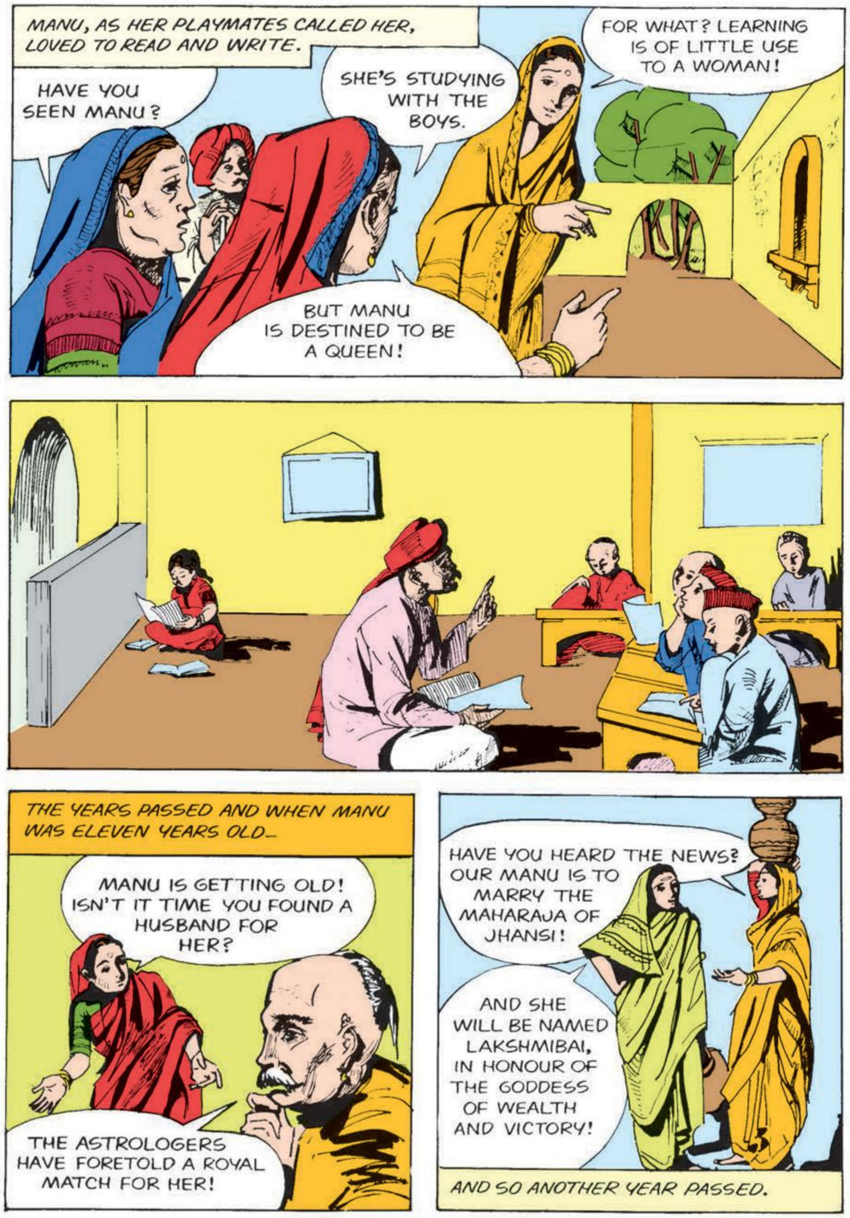
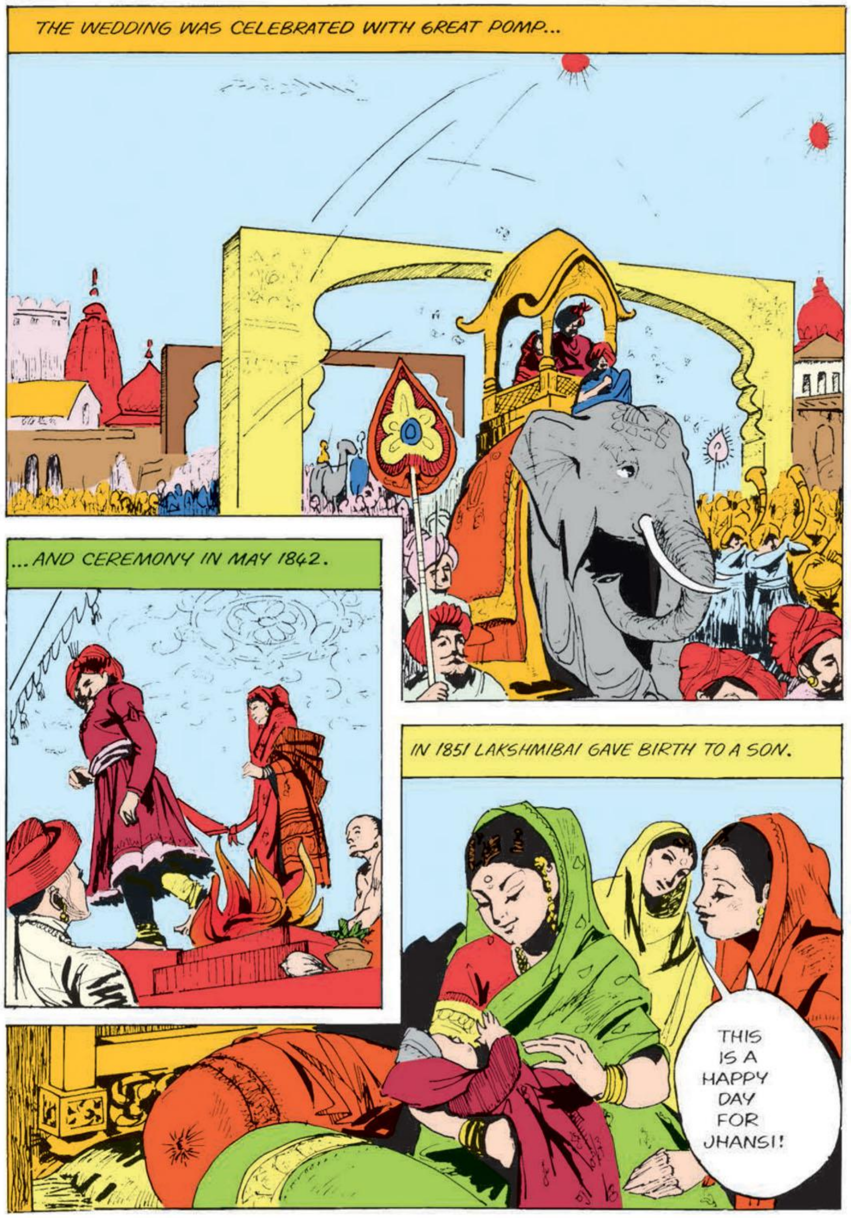
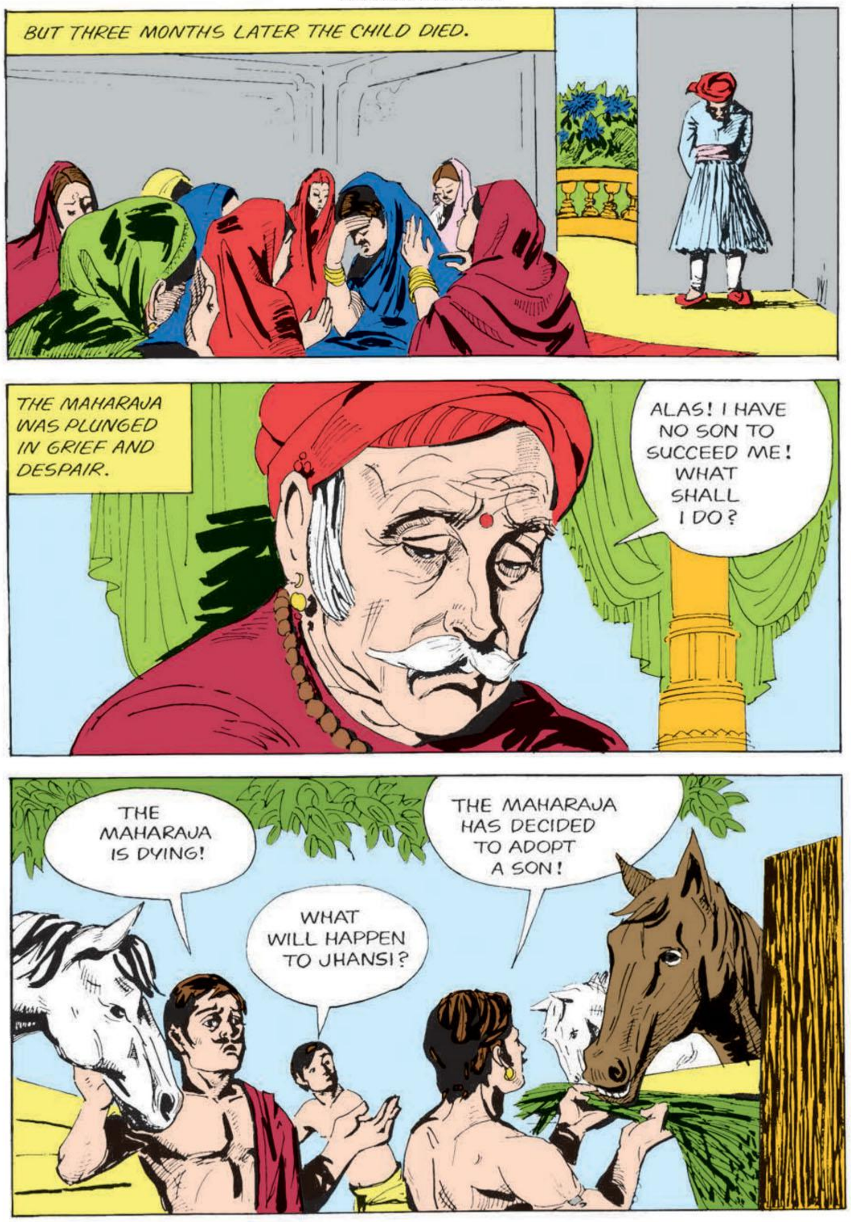
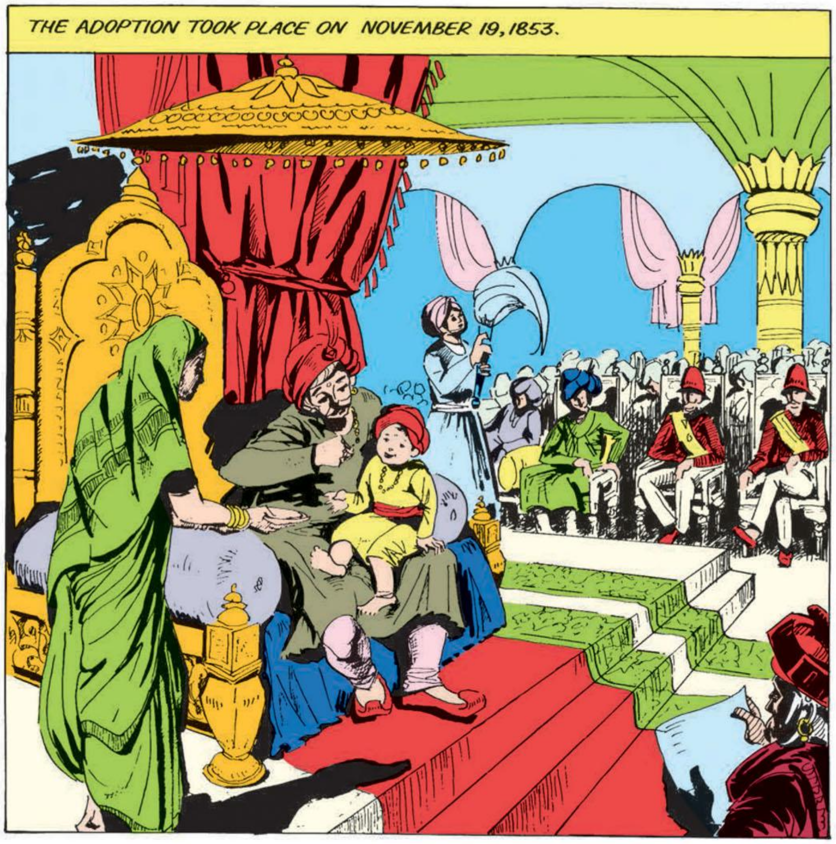
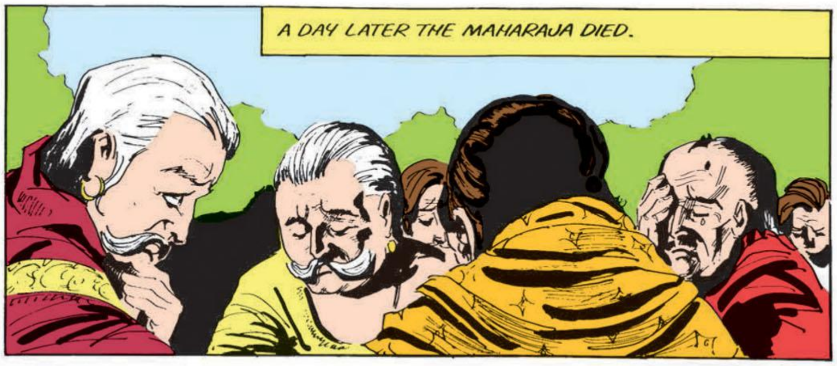

RANI OF JHANSI
THE EXILED PESHWA, BAJIRAO II LIVED AT BITHUR, WITH HIS FAMILY. ONE OF HIS COURTIERS, MOROPANT HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED MANIKARNIKA.

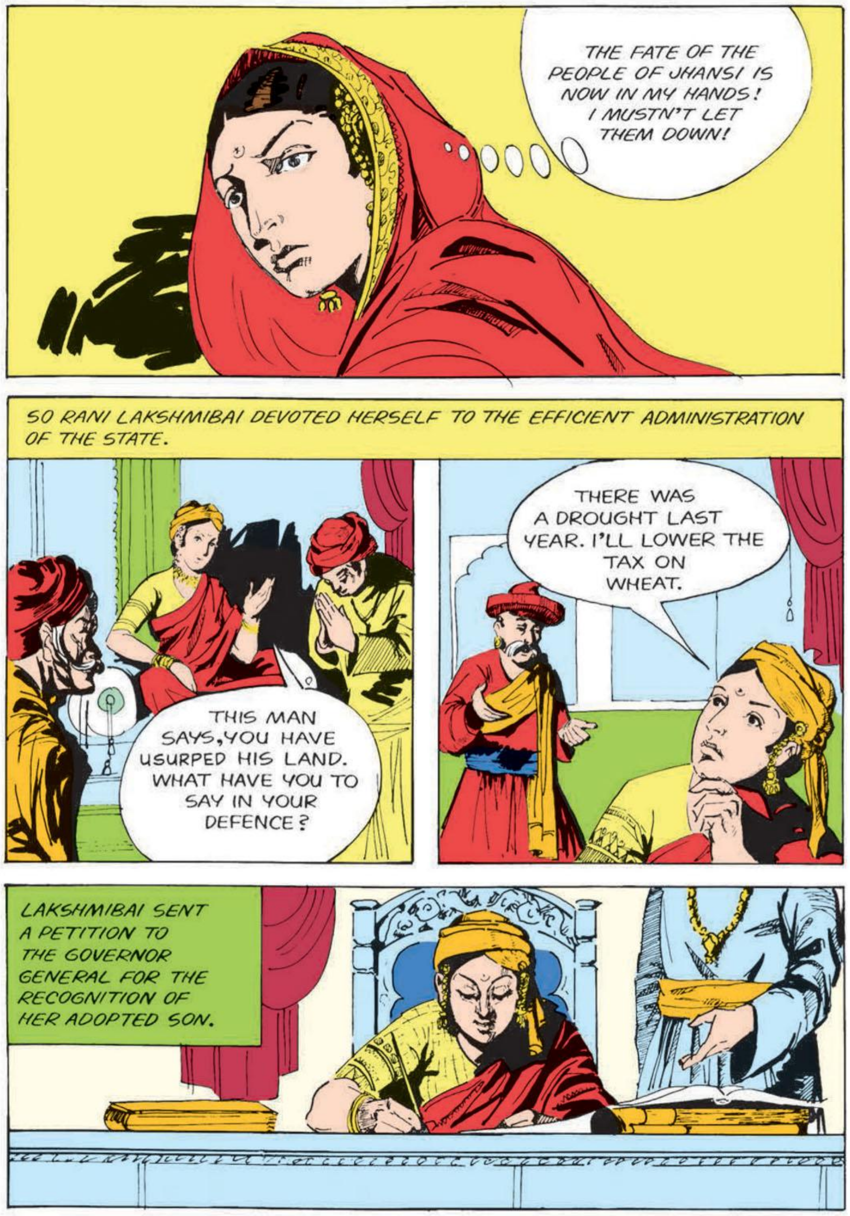

MANU, AS HER PLAYMATES CALLED HER, LOVED TO READ AND WRITE.
HAVE YOU SEEN MANU?
SHE'S STUDYING WITH THE BOYS.
FOR WHAT? LEARNING IS OF LITTLE USE TO A WOMAN!
BUT MANU IS DESTINED TO BE A QUEEN!
THE YEARS PASSED AND WHEN MANU WAS ELEVEN YEARS OLD...
MANU IS GETTING OLD! ISN'T IT TIME YOU FOUND A HUSBAND FOR HER?
THE ASTROLOGERS HAVE FORETOLD A ROYAL MATCH FOR HER!
HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS? OUR MANU IS TO MARRY THE MAHARAJA OF JHANSI!
AND SHE WILL BE NAMED LAKSHMIBAI, IN HONOUR OF THE GODDESS OF WEALTH AND VICTORY!
AND SO ANOTHER YEAR PASSED.

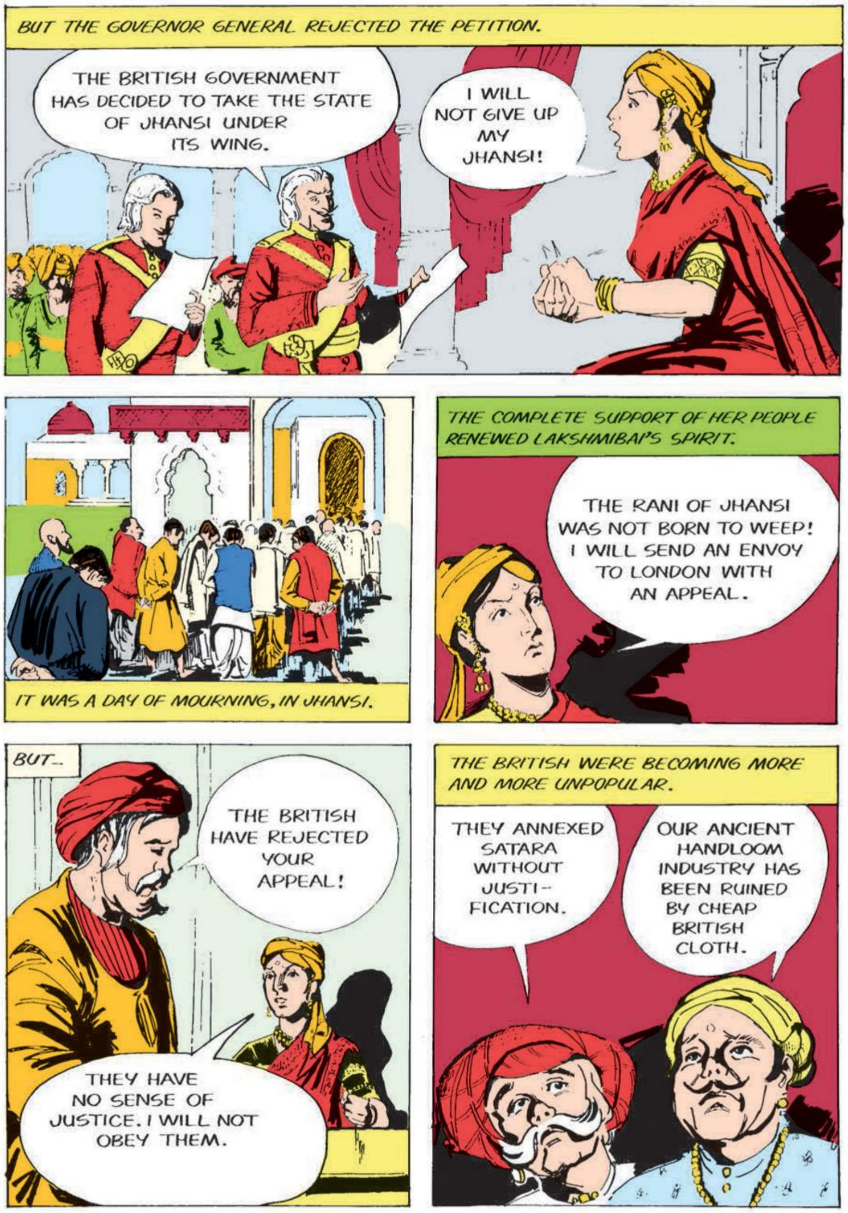

THE WEDDING WAS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT POMP...
...AND CEREMONY IN MAY 1842.
IN 1851 LAKSHMIBAI GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.
THIS IS A HAPPY DAY FOR JHANSI!

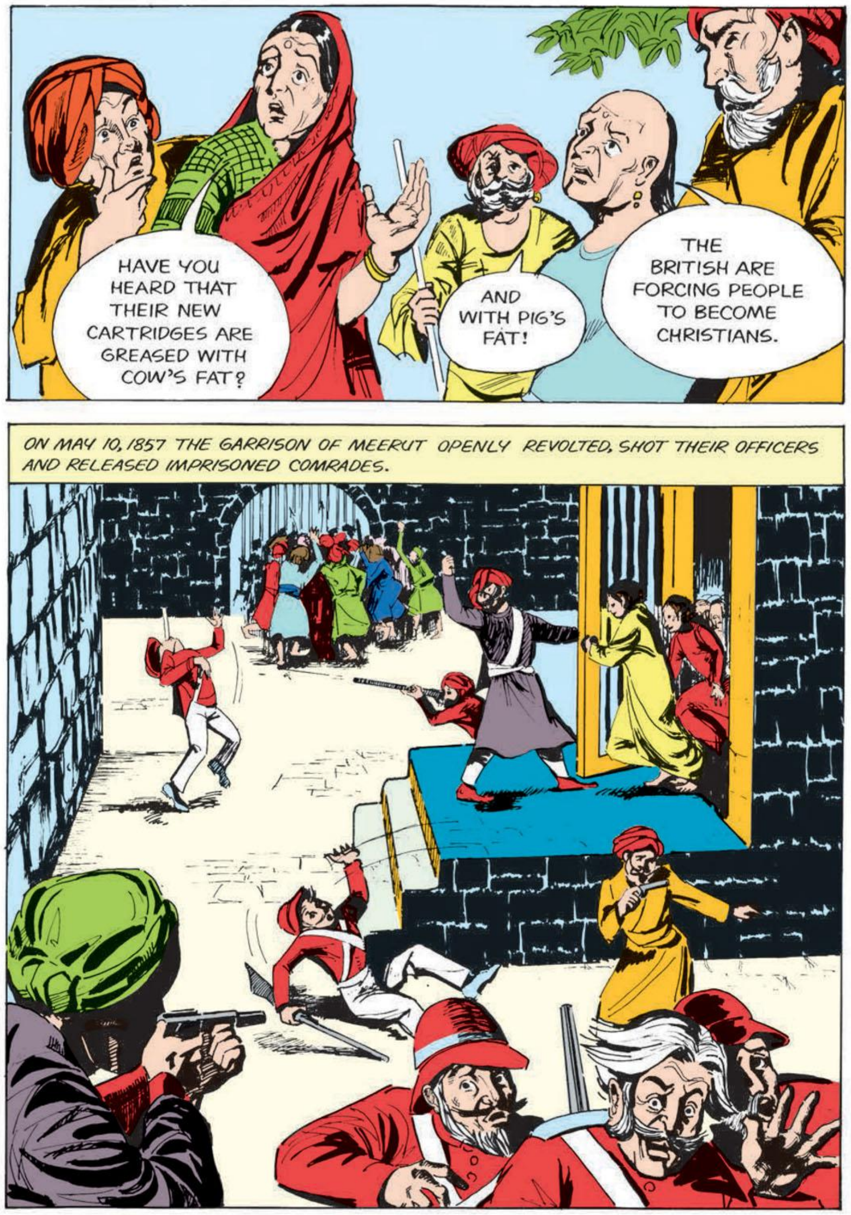

BUT THREE MONTHS LATER THE CHILD DIED.
THE MAHARAJA WAS PLUNGED IN GRIEF AND DESPAIR.
ALAS! I HAVE NO SON TO SUCCEED ME! WHAT SHALL I DO?
THE MAHARAJA IS DYING!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO JHANSI?
THE MAHARAJA HAS DECIDED TO ADOPT A SON!


THE ADOPTION TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER 19, 1853.

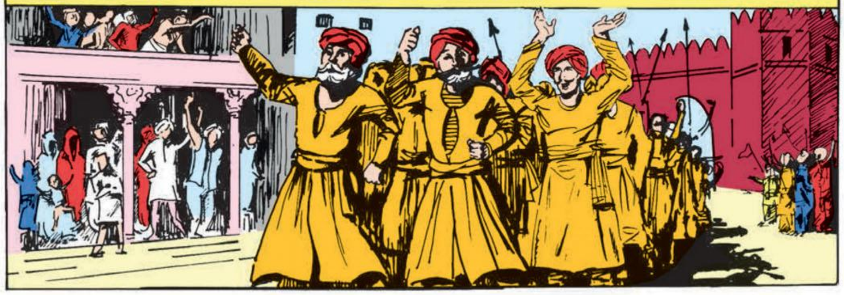

A DAY LATER THE MAHARAJA DIED.


THE FATE OF THE PEOPLE OF JHANSI IS NOW IN MY HANDS! I MUSTN'T LET THEM DOWN!
SO RANI LAKSHMIBAI DEVOTED HERSELF TO THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE.
THIS MAN SAYS, YOU HAVE USURPED HIS LAND. WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENCE?
THERE WAS A DROUGHT LAST YEAR. I'LL LOWER THE TAX ON WHEAT.
LAKSHMIBAI SENT A PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HER ADOPTED SON.

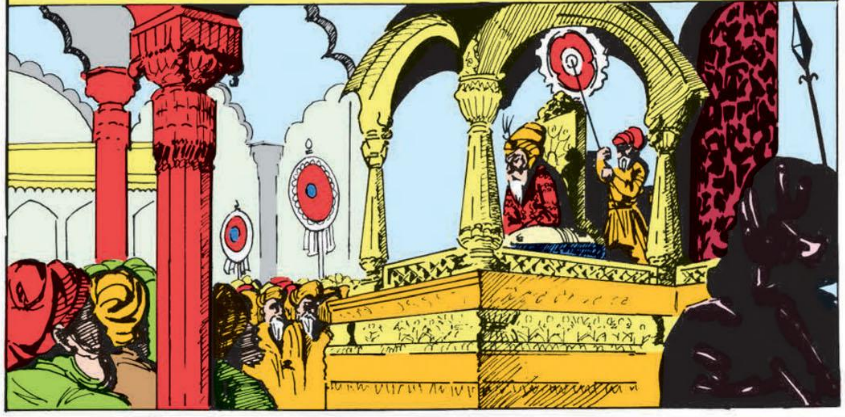

BUT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL REJECTED THE PETITION.
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO TAKE THE STATE OF JHANSI UNDER ITS WING.
I WILL NOT GIVE UP MY JHANSI!
IT WAS A DAY OF MOURNING, IN JHANSI.
THE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF HER PEOPLE RENEWED LAKSHMIBAI'S SPIRIT.
THE RANI OF JHANSI WAS NOT BORN TO WEEP! I WILL SEND AN ENVOY TO LONDON WITH AN APPEAL.
BUT...
THE BRITISH HAVE REJECTED YOUR APPEAL!
THEY HAVE NO SENSE OF JUSTICE. I WILL NOT OBEY THEM.
THE BRITISH WERE BECOMING MORE AND MORE UNPOPULAR.
THEY ANNEXED SATARA WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION.
OUR ANCIENT HANDLOOM INDUSTRY HAS BEEN RUINED BY CHEAP BRITISH CLOTH.

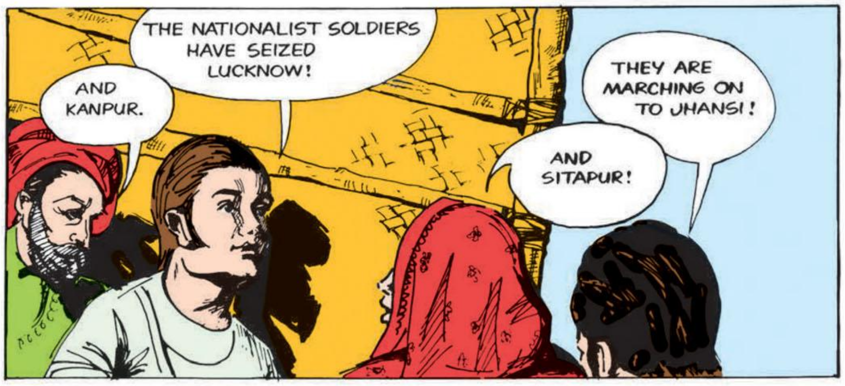

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT THEIR NEW CARTRIDGES ARE GREASED WITH COW'S FAT?
AND WITH PIG'S FAT!
THE BRITISH ARE FORCING PEOPLE TO BECOME CHRISTIANS.
ON MAY 10, 1857 THE GARRISON OF MEERUT OPENLY REVOLTED, SHOT THEIR OFFICERS AND RELEASED IMPRISONED COMRADES.

THEN THEY MARCHED TO DELHI WHERE THEY RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME.

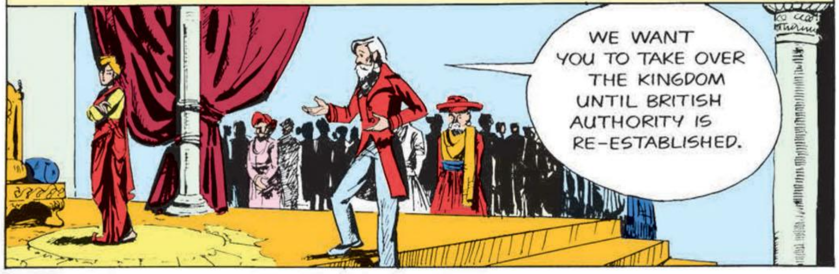


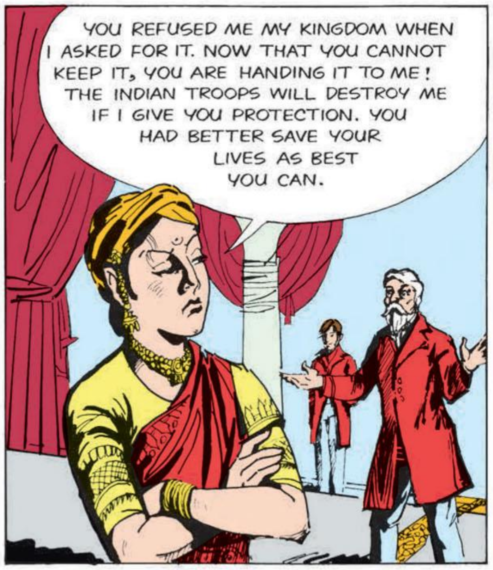
THE AGED EX-EMPEROR WAS REINSTATED ON THE MUGHAL THRONE AND DELHI BECAME THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS.

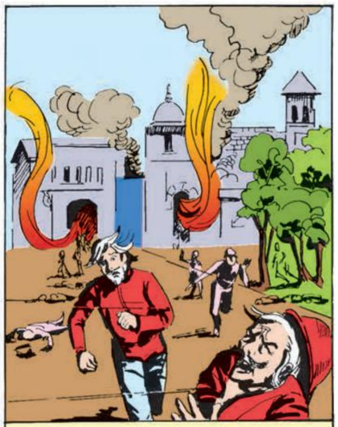



THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS HAVE SEIZED LUCKNOW!
AND KANPUR.
AND SITAPUR!
THEY ARE MARCHING ON TO JHANSI!

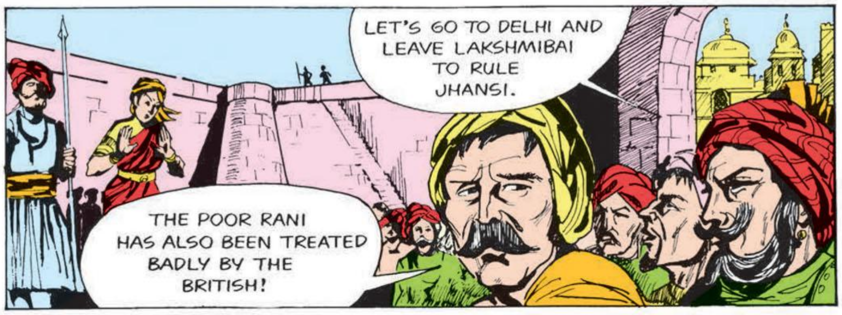
*THE BRITISH RAN TO LAKSHMIBAI AND BEGGED FOR HELP.*

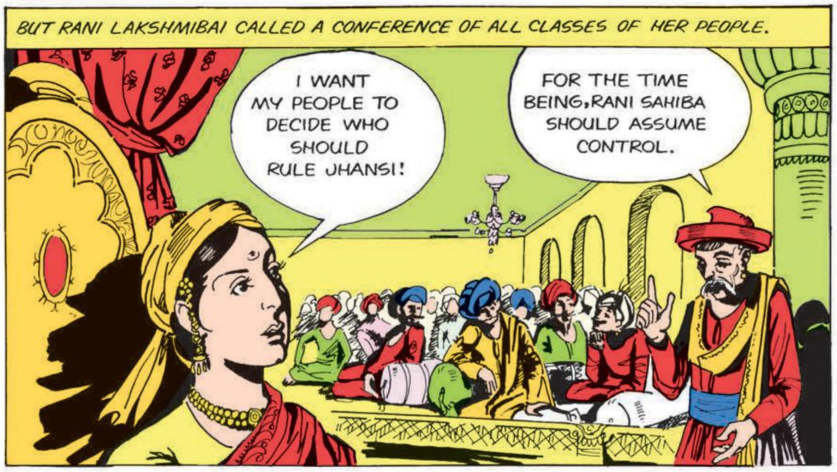

WE WANT YOU TO TAKE OVER THE KINGDOM UNTIL BRITISH AUTHORITY IS RE-ESTABLISHED.

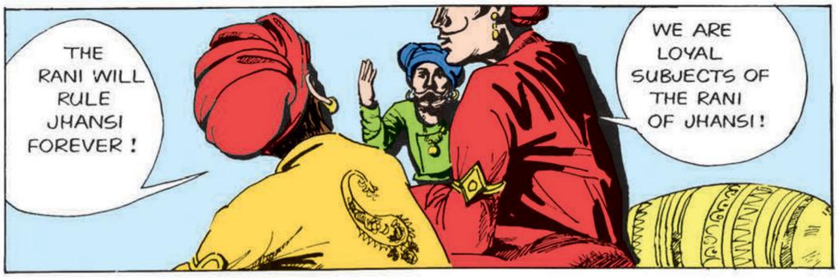

YOU REFUSED ME MY KINGDOM WHEN I ASKED FOR IT. NOW THAT YOU CANNOT KEEP IT, YOU ARE HANDING IT TO ME! THE INDIAN TROOPS WILL DESTROY ME IF I GIVE YOU PROTECTION. YOU HAD BETTER SAVE YOUR LIVES AS BEST YOU CAN.

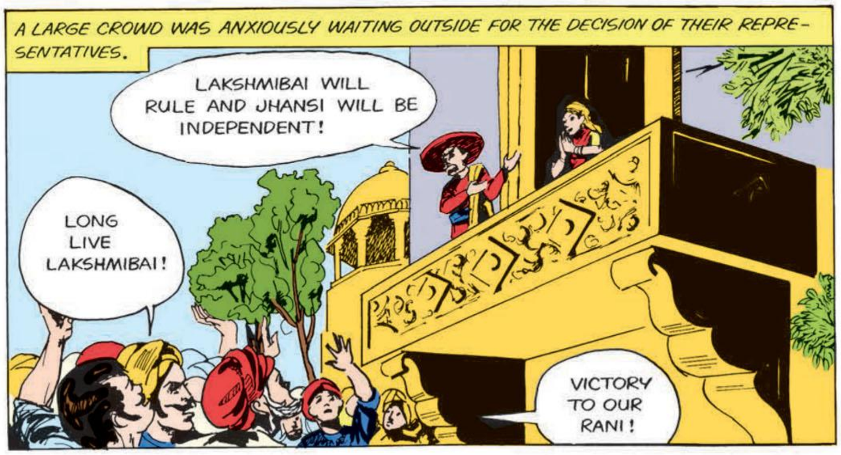


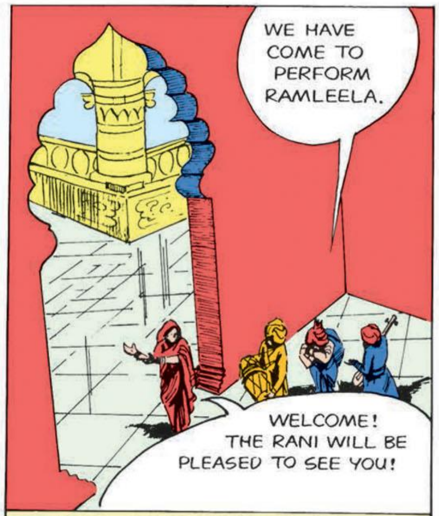
*THE BRITISH WERE POWERLESS AGAINST THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS AND WERE COMPLETELY ROUTED.*


LET'S GO TO DELHI AND LEAVE LAKSHMIBAI TO RULE JHANSI.
THE POOR RANI HAS ALSO BEEN TREATED BADLY BY THE BRITISH!


BUT RANI LAKSHMIBAI CALLED A CONFERENCE OF ALL CLASSES OF HER PEOPLE.
I WANT MY PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD RULE JHANSI!
FOR THE TIME BEING, RANI SAHIBA SHOULD ASSUME CONTROL.

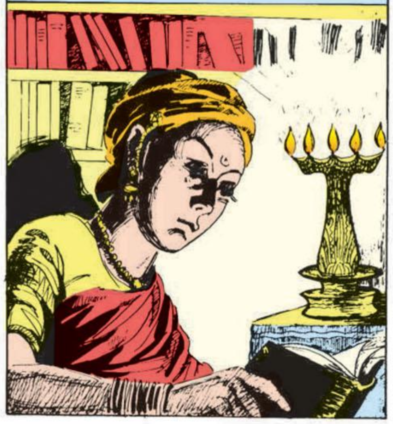

THE RANI WILL RULE JHANSI FOREVER!
WE ARE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF THE RANI OF JHANSI!


A LARGE CROWD WAS ANXIOUSLY WAITING OUTSIDE FOR THE DECISION OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.
LAKSHMIBAI WILL RULE AND JHANSI WILL BE INDEPENDENT!
LONG LIVE LAKSHMIBAI!
VICTORY TO OUR RANI!

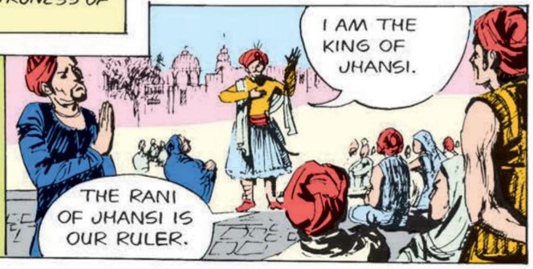

WE HAVE COME TO PERFORM RAMLEELA.
WELCOME! THE RANI WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE YOU!

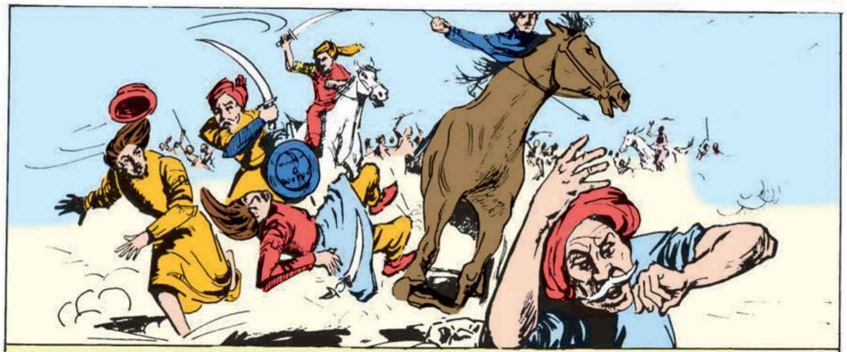
LAKSHMIBAI WAS A GREAT PATRONESS OF ART AND LITERATURE.

THE STATE LIBRARY WAS LAKSHMIBAI'S SPECIAL INTEREST. SHE OFTEN BOUGHT NEW BOOKS REGARDLESS OF THEIR COST.



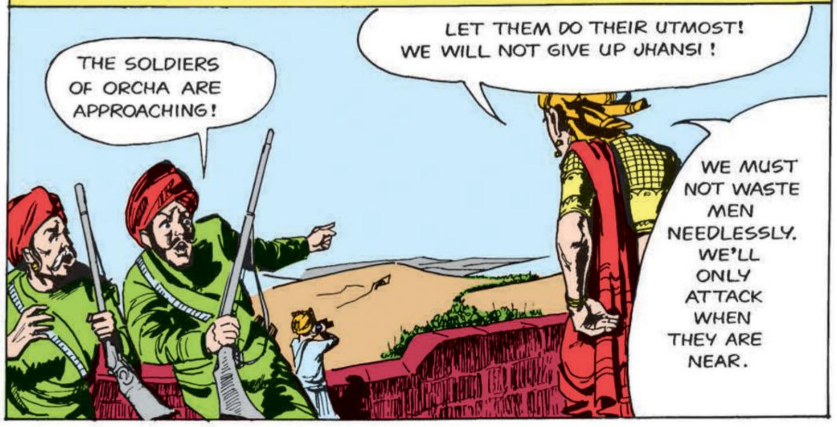
THE FIRST CHALLENGE TO LAKSHMIBAI'S RULE CAME FROM SADASHIV RAO, A DISTANT NEPHEW OF THE LATE MAHARAJA.

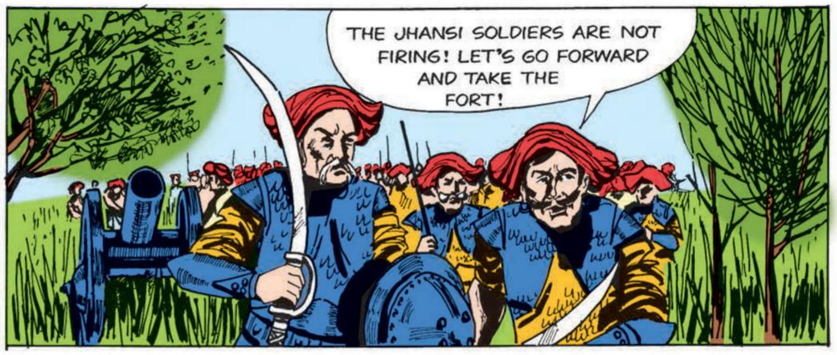

I AM THE KING OF JHANSI.
THE RANI OF JHANSI IS OUR RULER.

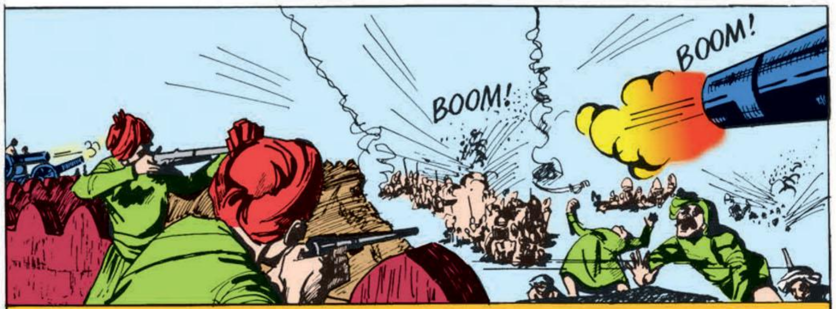


LAKSHMIBAI SENT HER TROOPS AGAINST HIM AND DEFEATED HIM IN A SINGLE ENCOUNTER.

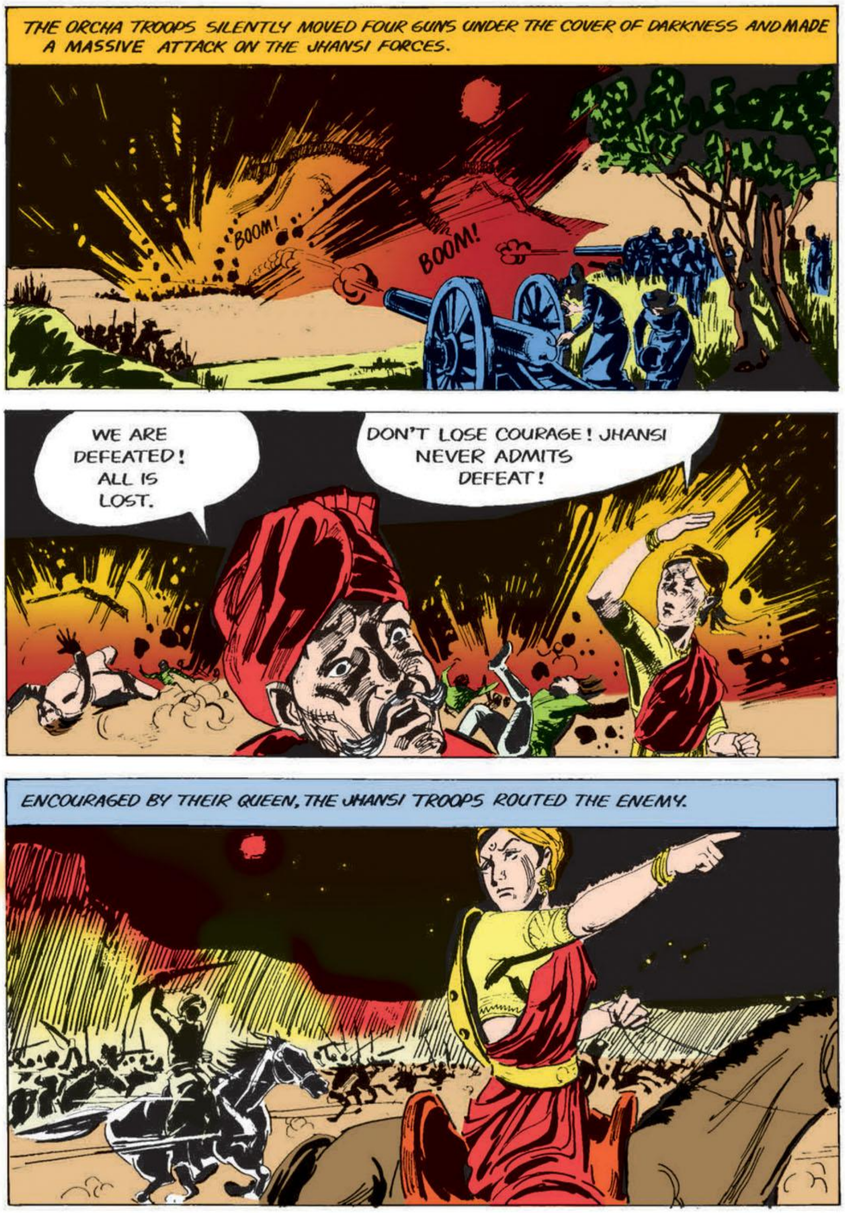
THE PRINCES OF DATIA AND ORCHA, TWO NEIGHBOUR STATES, TRIED TO WREST JHANSI FROM LAKSHMIBAI BUT HER TROOPS DEFEATED THEM.

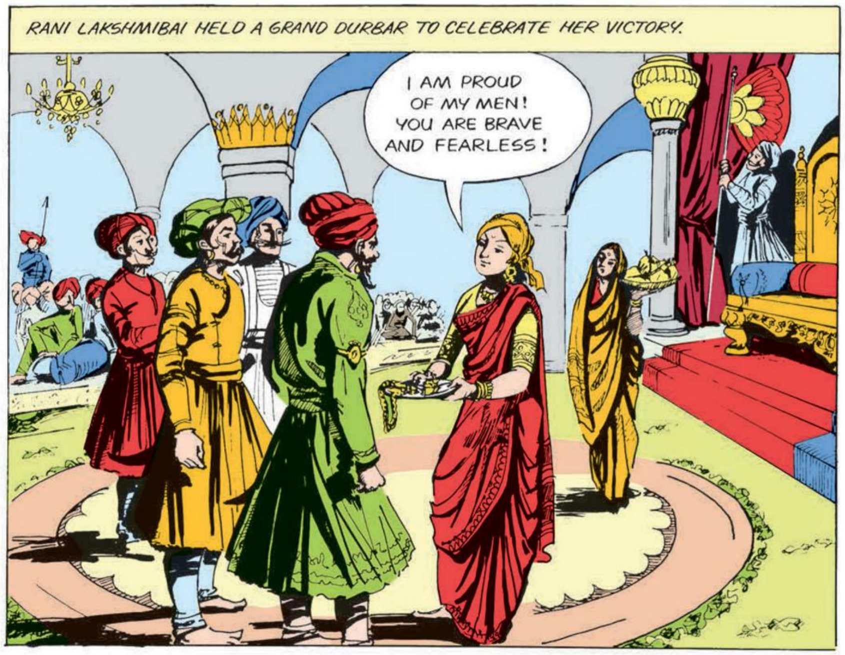

THE SOLDIERS OF ORCHA ARE APPROACHING!
LET THEM DO THEIR UTMOST! WE WILL NOT GIVE UP JHANSI !
WE MUST NOT WASTE MEN NEEDLESSLY. WE'LL ONLY ATTACK WHEN THEY ARE NEAR.

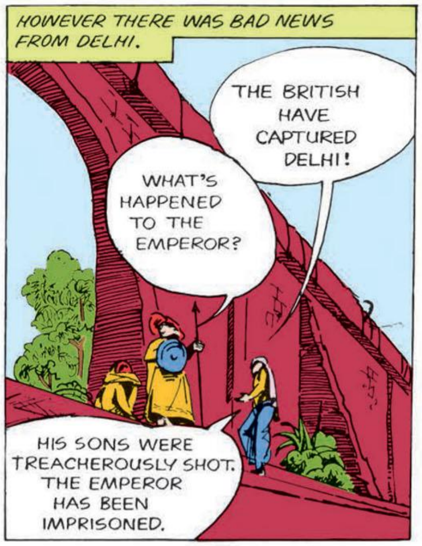

THE JHANSI SOLDIERS ARE NOT FIRING! LET'S GO FORWARD AND TAKE THE FORT!

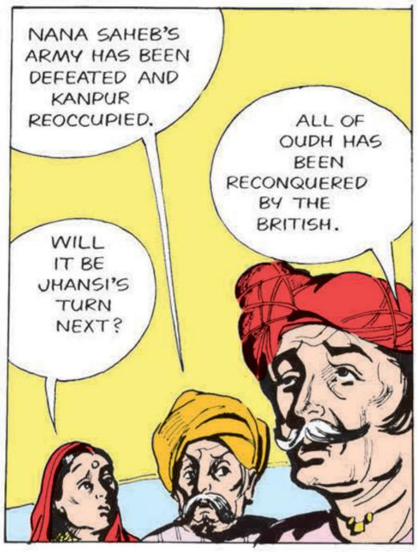


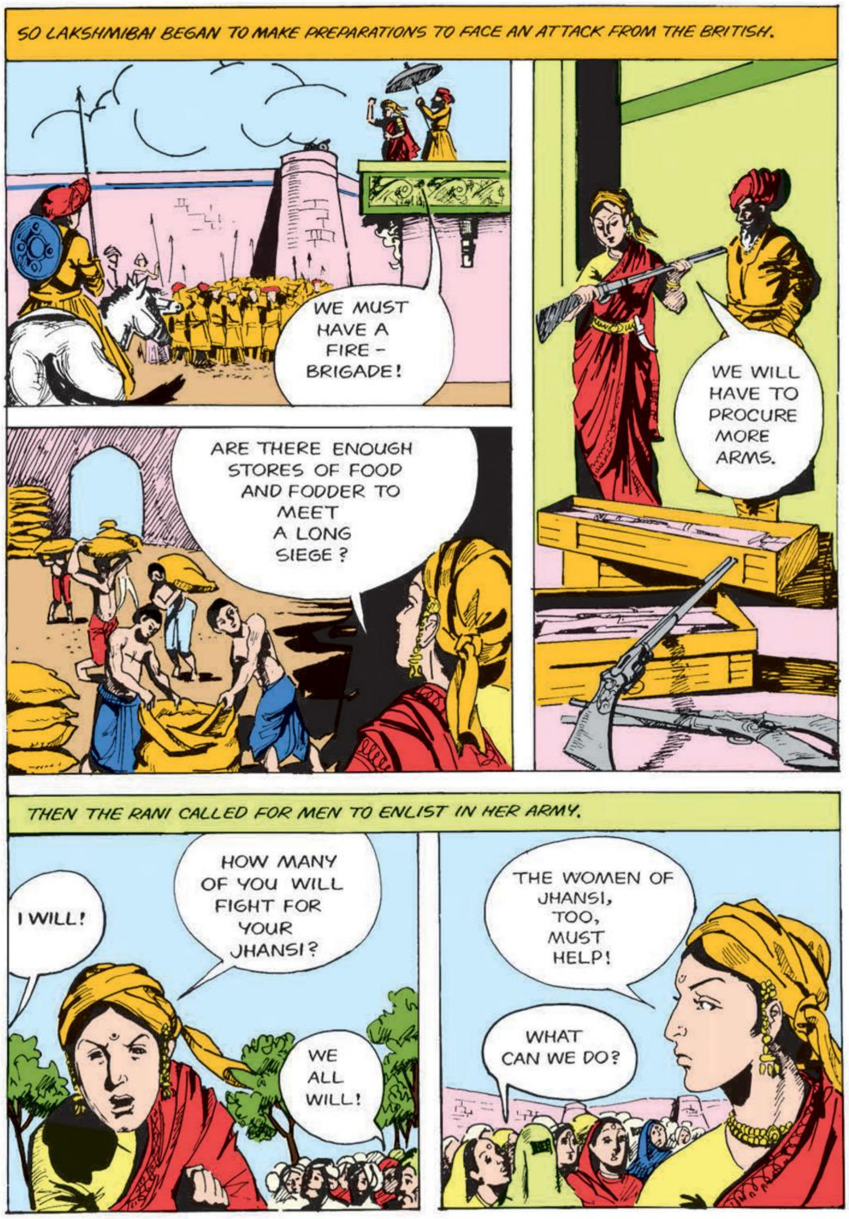
LAKSHMIBAI'S TROOPS OPENED FIRE AND THE INVADERS RETREATED IN CONFUSION.

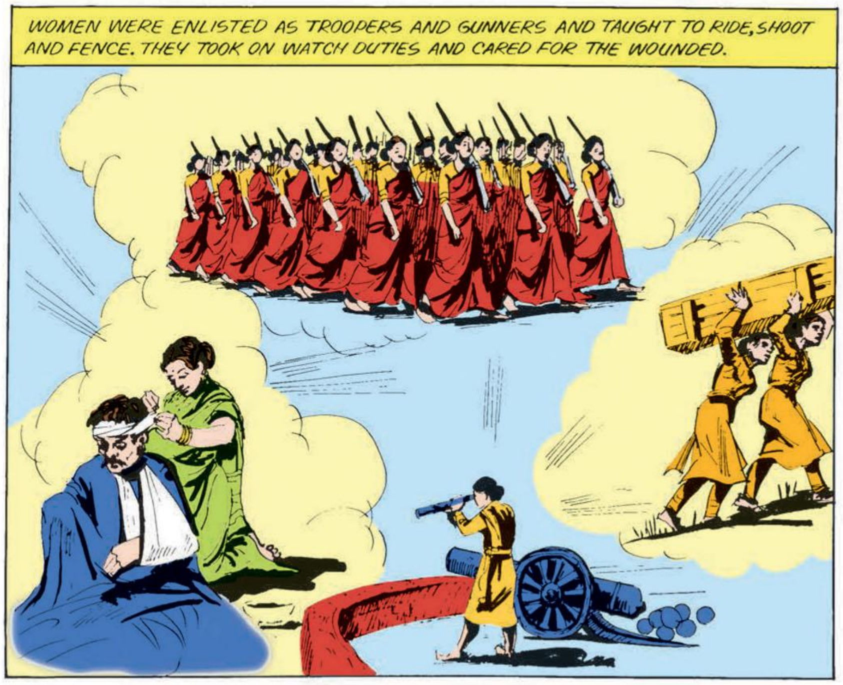

THE ORCHA TROOPS SILENTLY MOVED FOUR GUNS UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS AND MADE A MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE JHANSI FORCES.
BOOM!
BOOM!
WE ARE DEFEATED! ALL IS LOST.
DON'T LOSE COURAGE! JHANSI NEVER ADMITS DEFEAT!
ENCOURAGED BY THEIR QUEEN, THE JHANSI TROOPS ROUTED THE ENEMY.

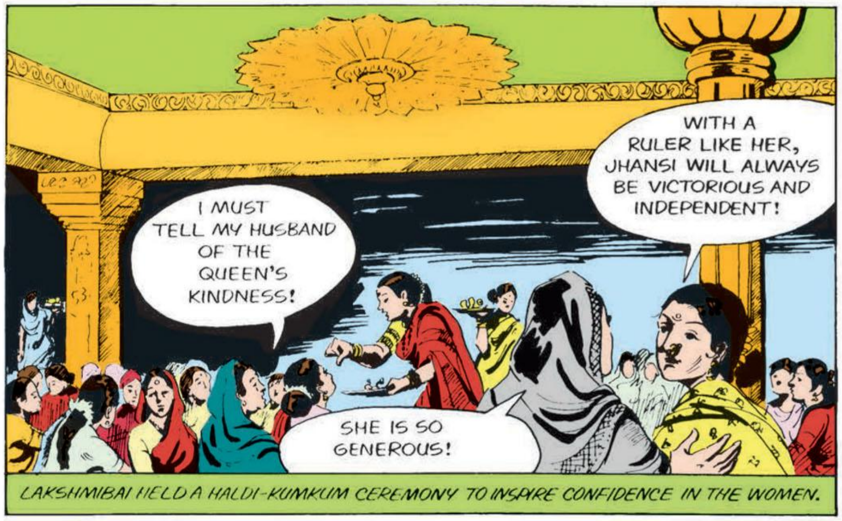

RANI LAKSHMIBAI HELD A GRAND DURBAR TO CELEBRATE HER VICTORY.
I AM PROUD OF MY MEN! YOU ARE BRAVE AND FEARLESS!

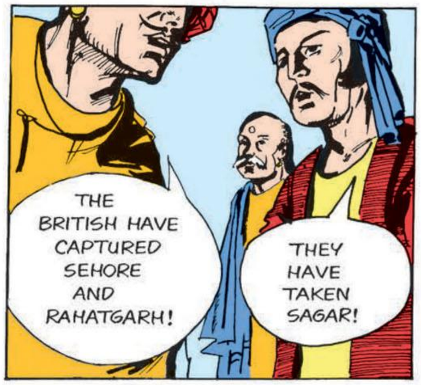

HOWEVER THERE WAS BAD NEWS FROM DELHI.
THE BRITISH HAVE CAPTURED DELHI!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE EMPEROR?
HIS SONS WERE TREACHEROUSLY SHOT. THE EMPEROR HAS BEEN IMPRISONED.

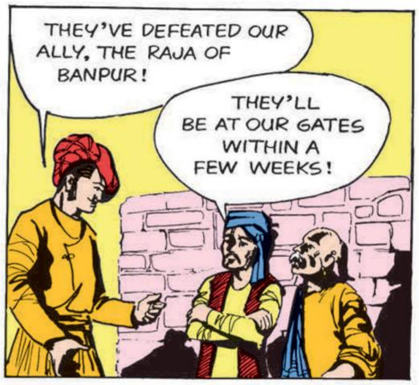

NANA SAHEB'S ARMY HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND KANPUR REOCCUPIED.
ALL OF OUDH HAS BEEN RECONQUERED BY THE BRITISH.
WILL IT BE JHANSI'S TURN NEXT?

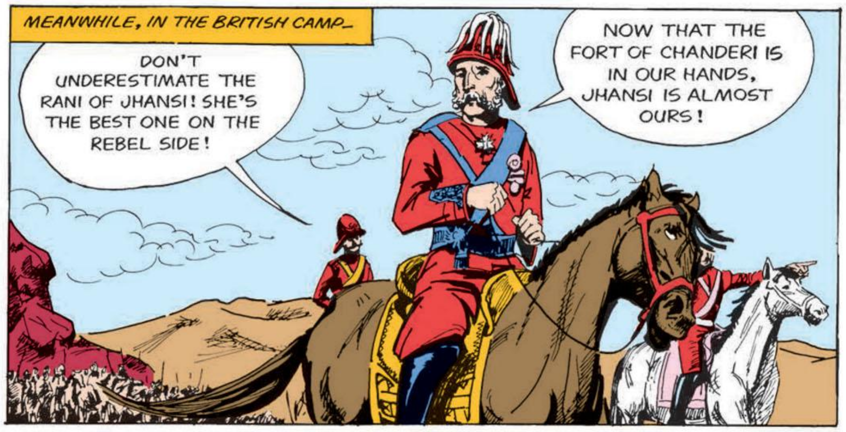

SO LAKSHMIBAI BEGAN TO MAKE PREPARATIONS TO FACE AN ATTACK FROM THE BRITISH.
WE MUST HAVE A FIRE-BRIGADE!
WE WILL HAVE TO PROCURE MORE ARMS.
ARE THERE ENOUGH STORES OF FOOD AND FODDER TO MEET A LONG SIEGE?
THEN THE RANI CALLED FOR MEN TO ENLIST IN HER ARMY.
HOW MANY OF YOU WILL FIGHT FOR YOUR JHANSI?
I WILL!
WE ALL WILL!
THE WOMEN OF JHANSI, TOO, MUST HELP!
WHAT CAN WE DO?

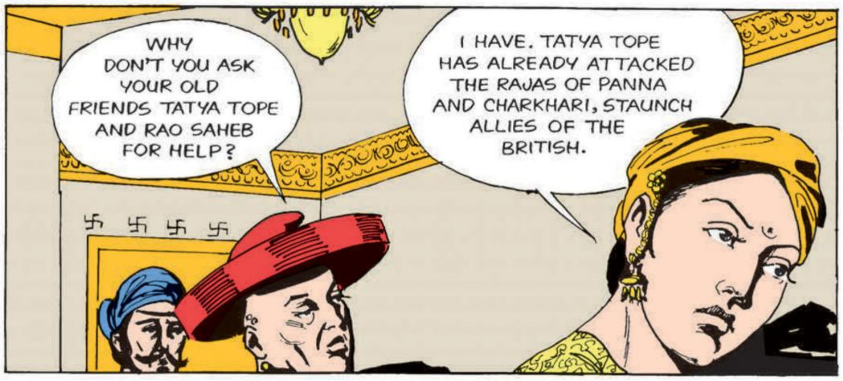

WOMEN WERE ENLISTED AS TROOPERS AND GUNNERS AND TAUGHT TO RIDE, SHOOT AND FENCE. THEY TOOK ON WATCH DUTIES AND CARED FOR THE WOUNDED.

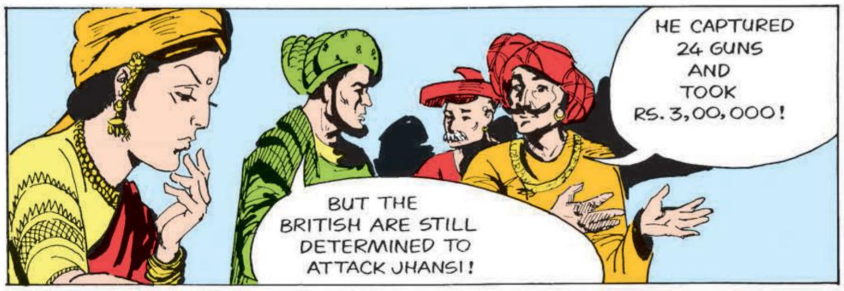

WITH A RULER LIKE HER, JHANSI WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS AND INDEPENDENT!
I MUST TELL MY HUSBAND OF THE QUEEN'S KINDNESS!
SHE IS SO GENEROUS!
LAKSHMIBAI HELD A HALDI-KUMKUM CEREMONY TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN THE WOMEN.


THE BRITISH HAVE CAPTURED SEHORE AND RAHATGARH!
THEY HAVE TAKEN SAGAR!

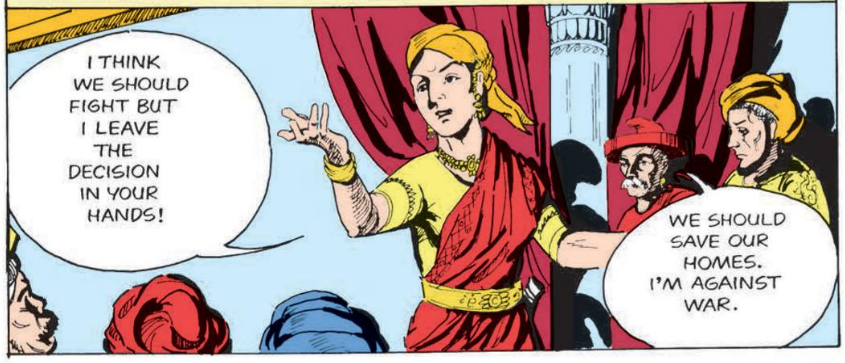

THEY'VE DEFEATED OUR ALLY, THE RAJA OF BANPUR!
THEY'LL BE AT OUR GATES WITHIN A FEW WEEKS!

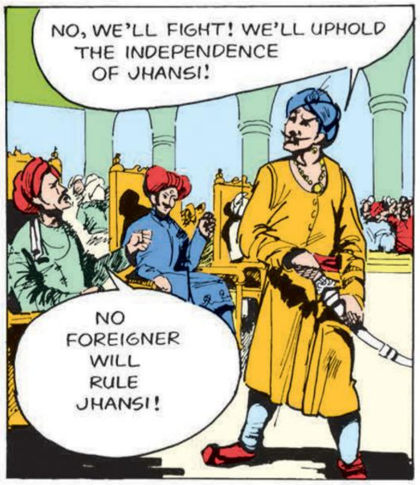

MEANWHILE, IN THE BRITISH CAMP_
NOW THAT THE FORT OF CHANDERI IS IN OUR HANDS, JHANSI IS ALMOST OURS!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE RANI OF JHANSI! SHE'S THE BEST ONE ON THE REBEL SIDE!

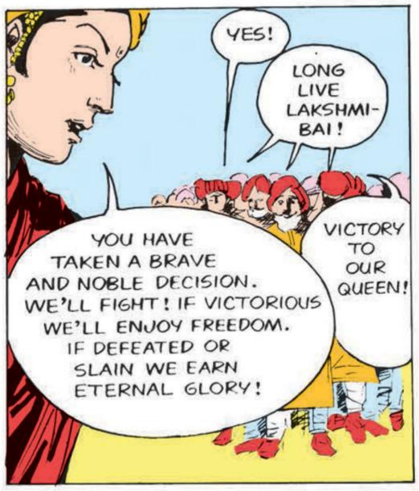

WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOUR OLD FRIENDS TATYA TOPE AND RAO SAHEB FOR HELP?
I HAVE. TATYA TOPE HAS ALREADY ATTACKED THE RAJAS OF PANNA AND CHARKHARI, STAUNCH ALLIES OF THE BRITISH.

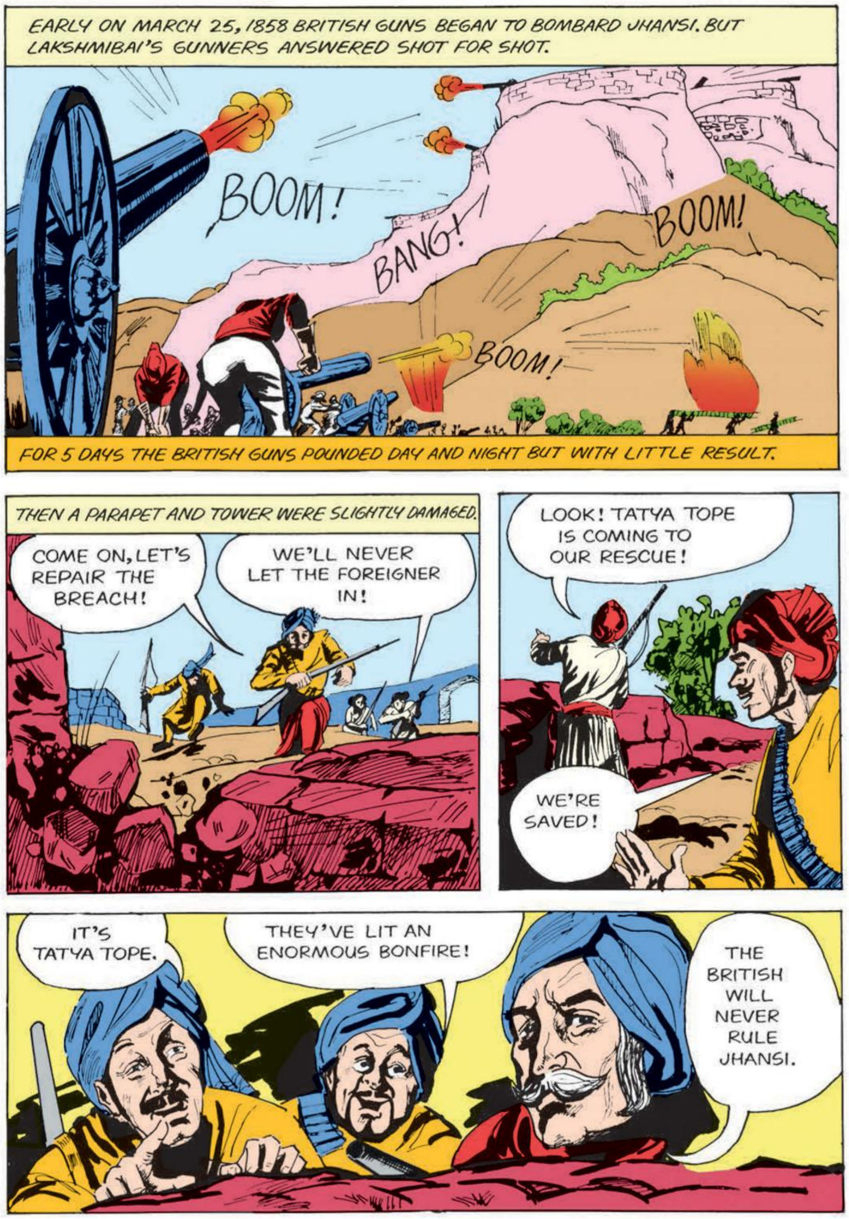

HE CAPTURED 24 GUNS AND TOOK RS. 3,00,000!
BUT THE BRITISH ARE STILL DETERMINED TO ATTACK JHANSI!

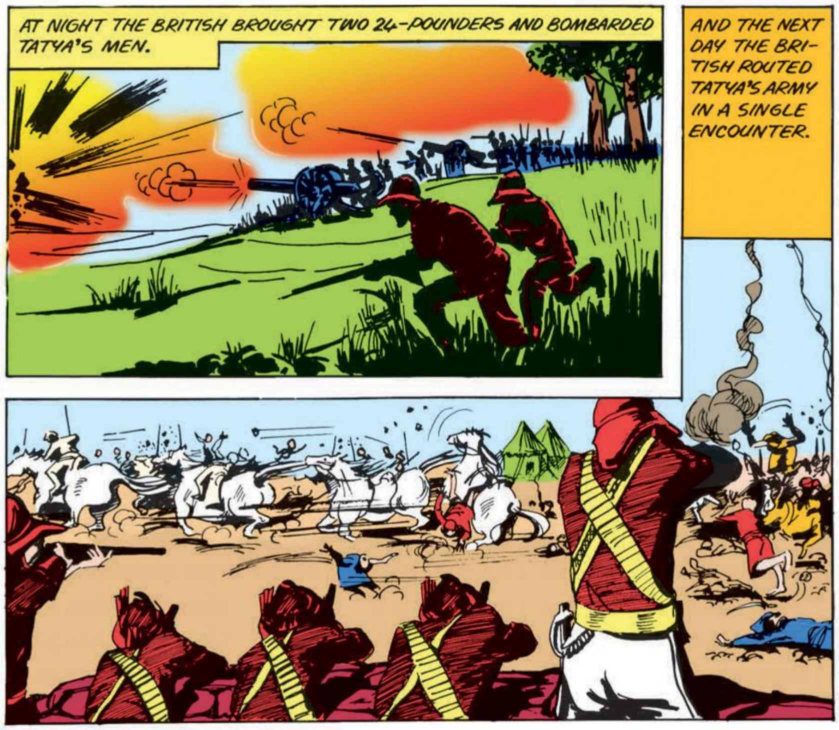
*LAKSHMIBAI CALLED A REPRESENTATIVE MEETING OF HER PEOPLE AND ASKED IF THEY WANTED TO DEFEND THE CITY OR SUE FOR PEACE.*

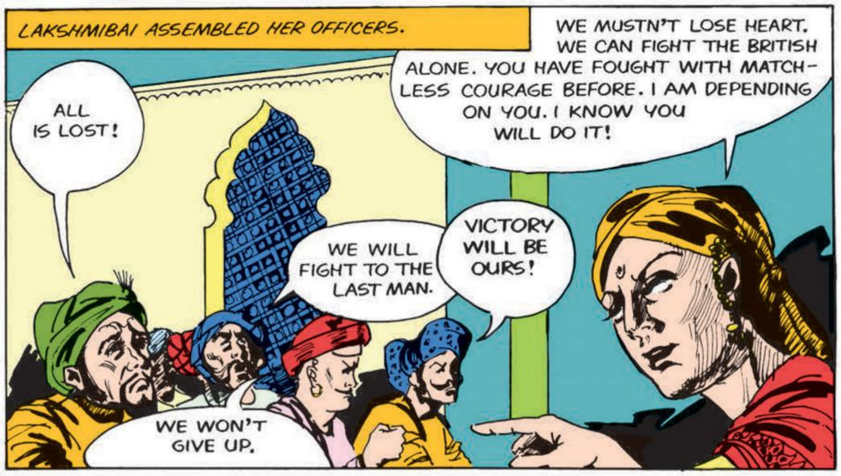

I THINK WE SHOULD FIGHT BUT I LEAVE THE DECISION IN YOUR HANDS!
WE SHOULD SAVE OUR HOMES. I'M AGAINST WAR.

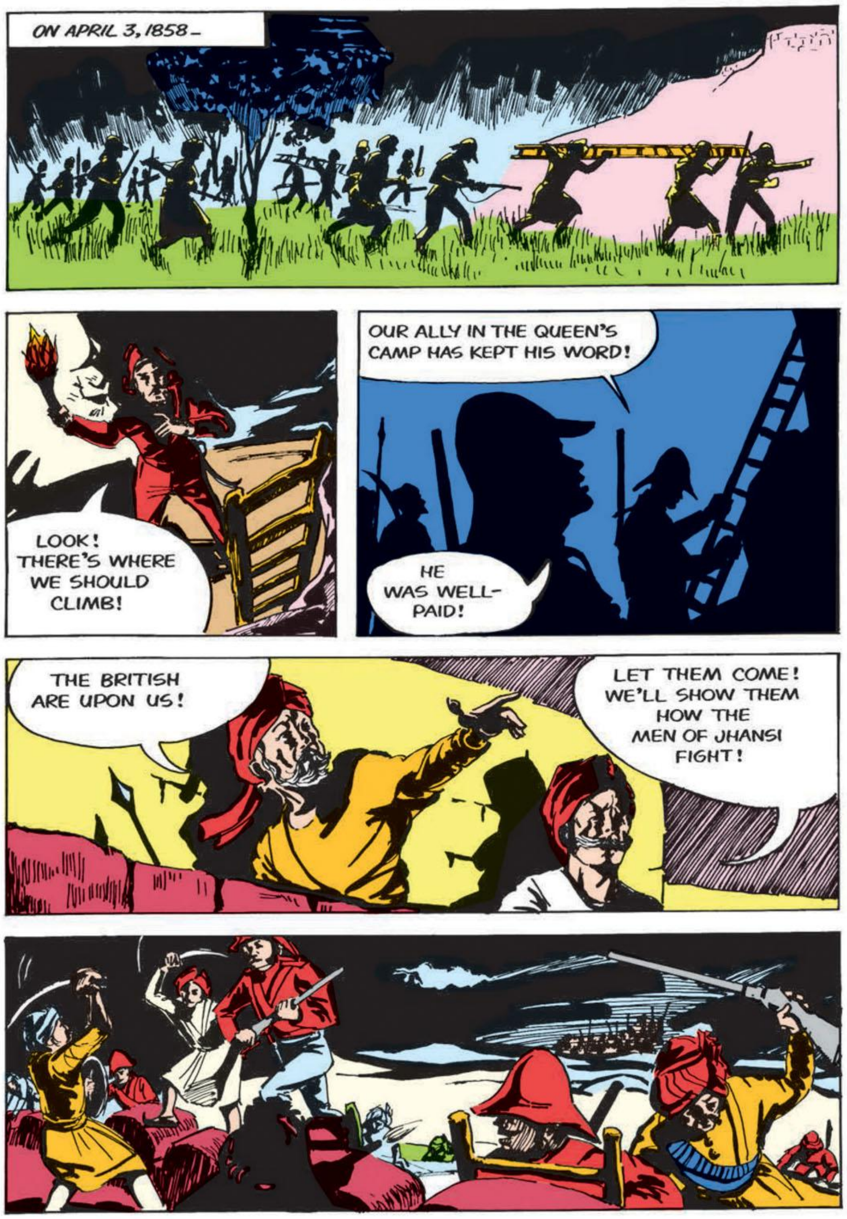

NO, WE'LL FIGHT! WE'LL UPHOLD THE INDEPENDENCE OF JHANSI!
NO FOREIGNER WILL RULE JHANSI!

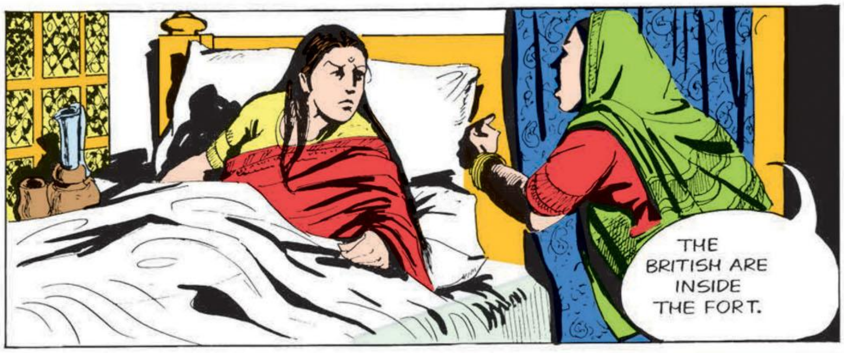

YES!
LONG LIVE LAKSHMI-BAI!
YOU HAVE TAKEN A BRAVE AND NOBLE DECISION. WE'LL FIGHT! IF VICTORIOUS WE'LL ENJOY FREEDOM. IF DEFEATED OR SLAIN WE EARN ETERNAL GLORY!
VICTORY TO OUR QUEEN!

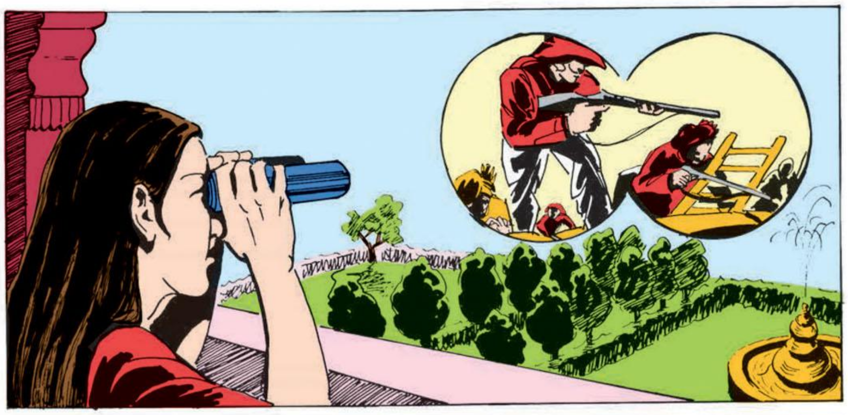

EARLY ON MARCH 25, 1858 BRITISH GUNS BEGAN TO BOMBARD JHANSI. BUT LAKSHMIBAI'S GUNNERS ANSWERED SHOT FOR SHOT.
BOOM!
BANG!
BOOM!
BOOM!
FOR 5 DAYS THE BRITISH GUNS POUNDED DAY AND NIGHT BUT WITH LITTLE RESULT.
THEN A PARAPET AND TOWER WERE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.
COME ON, LET'S REPAIR THE BREACH!
WE'LL NEVER LET THE FOREIGNER IN!
LOOK! TATYA TOPE IS COMING TO OUR RESCUE!
WE'RE SAVED!
IT'S TATYA TOPE.
THEY'VE LIT AN ENORMOUS BONFIRE!
THE BRITISH WILL NEVER RULE JHANSI.

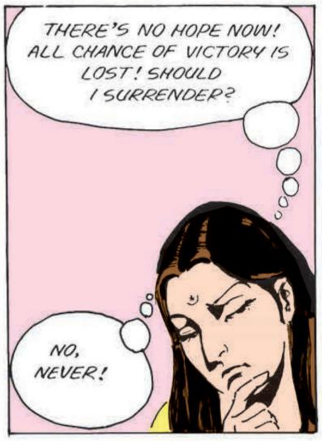

AT NIGHT THE BRITISH BROUGHT TWO 24-POUNDERS AND BOMBARDED TATYA'S MEN.
AND THE NEXT DAY THE BRITISH ROUTED TATYA'S ARMY IN A SINGLE ENCOUNTER.

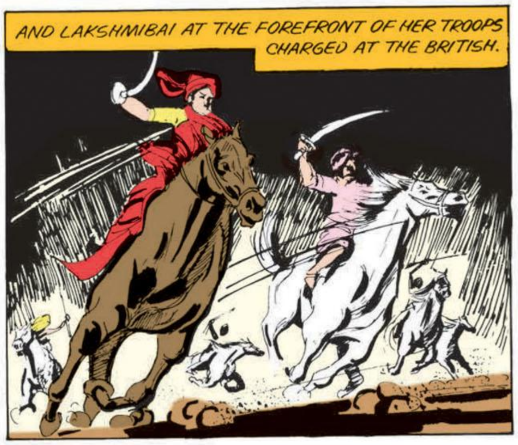

LAKSHMIBAI ASSEMBLED HER OFFICERS.
ALL IS LOST!
WE MUSTN'T LOSE HEART. WE CAN FIGHT THE BRITISH ALONE. YOU HAVE FOUGHT WITH MATCHLESS COURAGE BEFORE. I AM DEPENDING ON YOU. I KNOW YOU WILL DO IT!
WE WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN.
VICTORY WILL BE OURS!
WE WON'T GIVE UP.

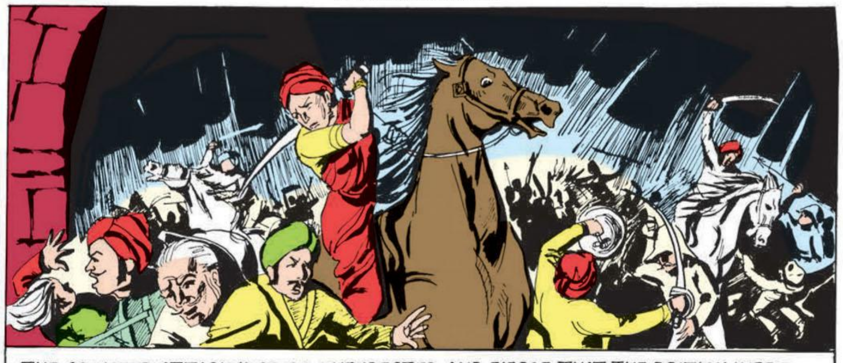

ON APRIL 3, 1858 –
LOOK! THERE'S WHERE WE SHOULD CLIMB!
OUR ALLY IN THE QUEEN'S CAMP HAS KEPT HIS WORD!
HE WAS WELL-PAID!
THE BRITISH ARE UPON US!
LET THEM COME! WE'LL SHOW THEM HOW THE MEN OF JHANSI FIGHT!


THE BRITISH ARE INSIDE THE FORT.

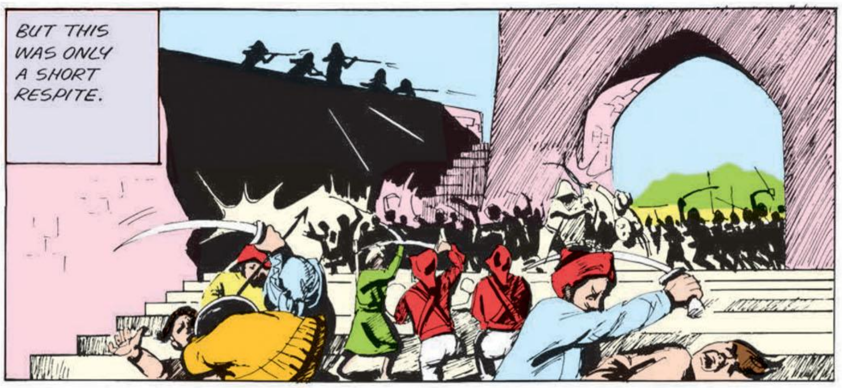



THERE'S NO HOPE NOW! ALL CHANCE OF VICTORY IS LOST! SHOULD I SURRENDER?
NO, NEVER!

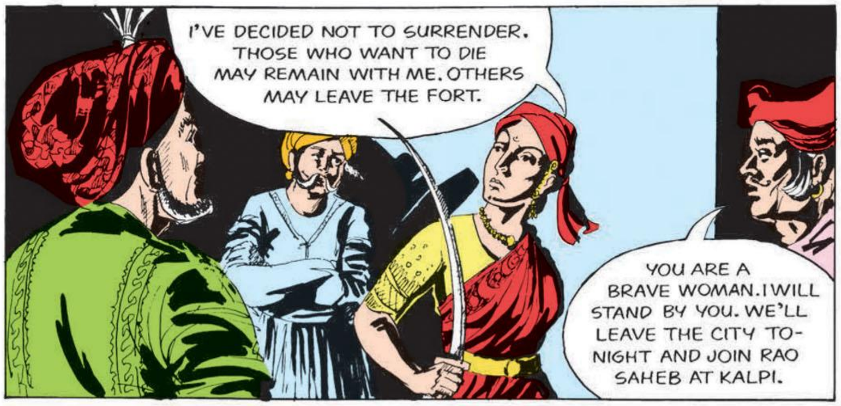

AND LAKSHMIBAI AT THE FOREFRONT OF HER TROOPS CHARGED AT THE BRITISH.

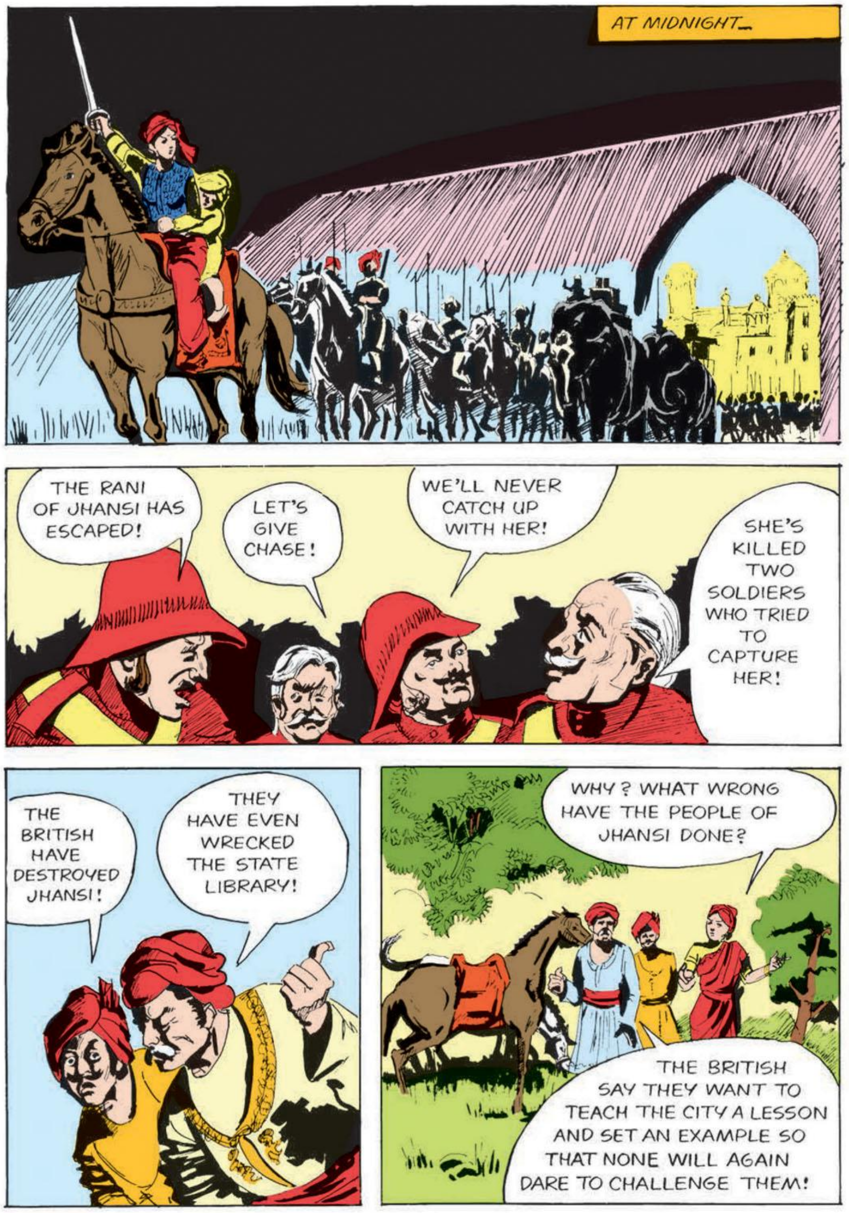


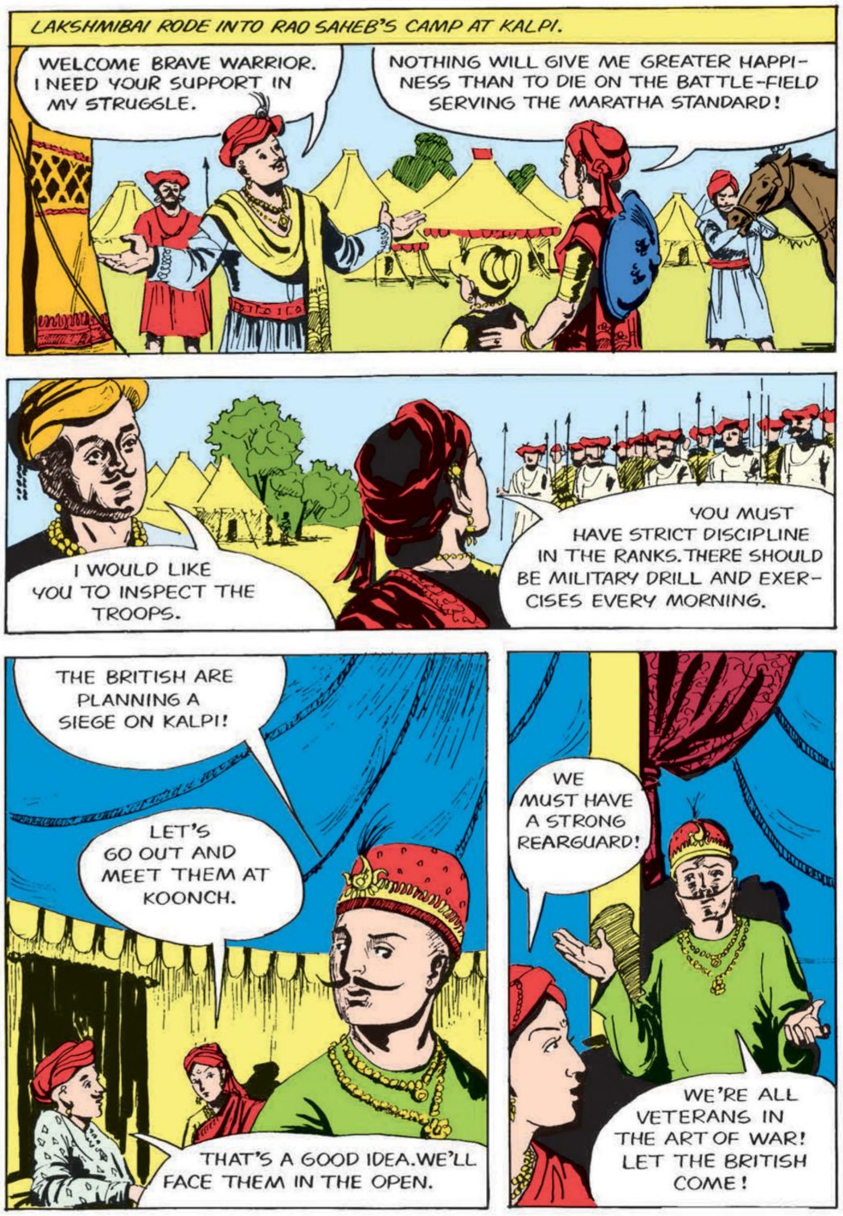
THE COUNTER ATTACK WAS SO UNEXPECTED AND FIERCE THAT THE BRITISH WERE FORCED TO TAKE COVER.

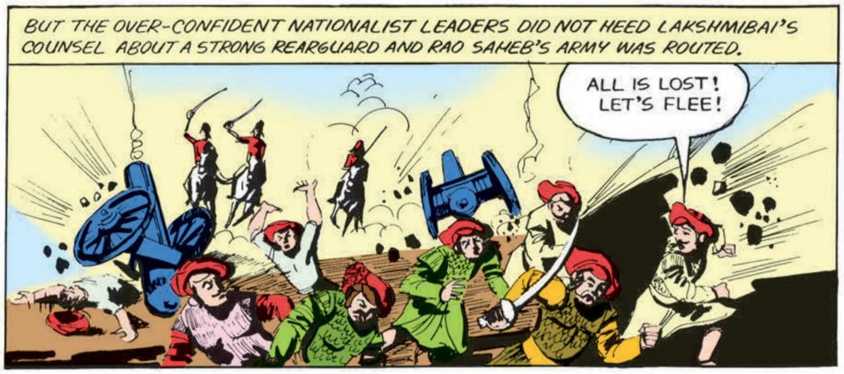


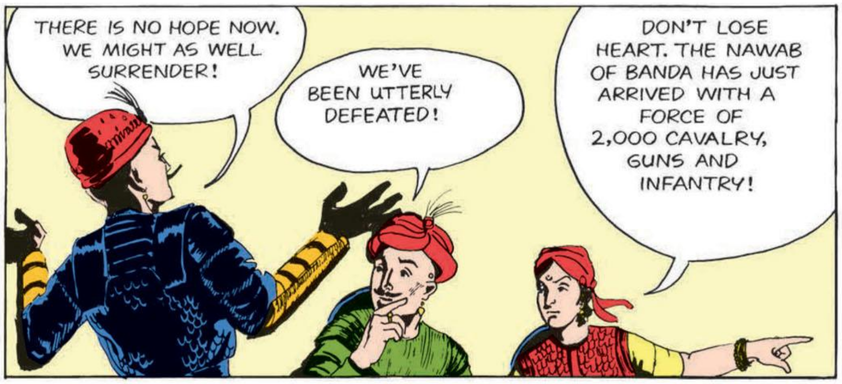
BUT THIS WAS ONLY A SHORT RESPITE.

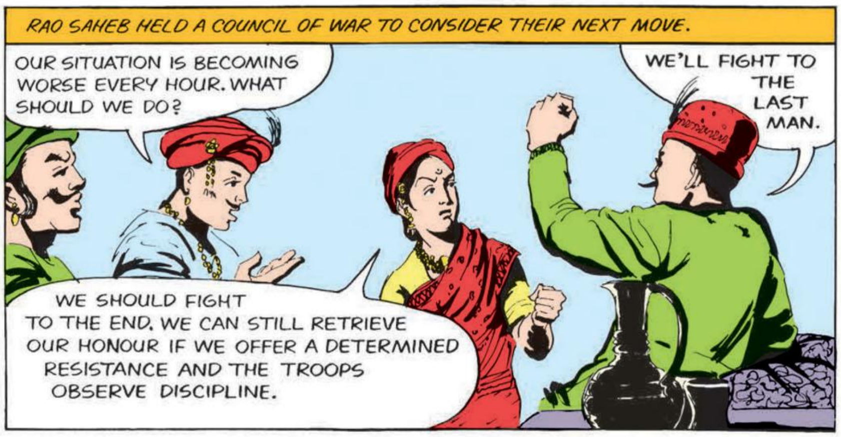

I'VE DECIDED NOT TO SURRENDER. THOSE WHO WANT TO DIE MAY REMAIN WITH ME. OTHERS MAY LEAVE THE FORT.
YOU ARE A BRAVE WOMAN. I WILL STAND BY YOU. WE'LL LEAVE THE CITY TONIGHT AND JOIN RAO SAHEB AT KALPI.

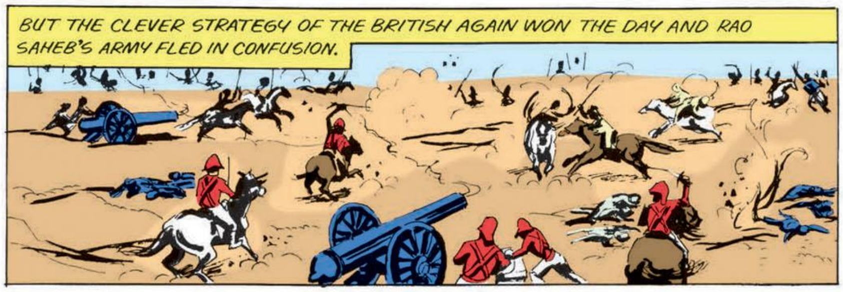

AT MIDNIGHT...
THE RANI OF JHANSI HAS ESCAPED!
LET'S GIVE CHASE!
WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP WITH HER!
SHE'S KILLED TWO SOLDIERS WHO TRIED TO CAPTURE HER!
THE BRITISH HAVE DESTROYED JHANSI!
THEY HAVE EVEN WRECKED THE STATE LIBRARY!
WHY? WHAT WRONG HAVE THE PEOPLE OF JHANSI DONE?
THE BRITISH SAY THEY WANT TO TEACH THE CITY A LESSON AND SET AN EXAMPLE SO THAT NONE WILL AGAIN DARE TO CHALLENGE THEM!


LAKSHMIBAI RODE INTO RAO SAHEB'S CAMP AT KALPI.
WELCOME BRAVE WARRIOR. I NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN MY STRUGGLE.
NOTHING WILL GIVE ME GREATER HAPPINESS THAN TO DIE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD SERVING THE MARATHA STANDARD!
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO INSPECT THE TROOPS.
YOU MUST HAVE STRICT DISCIPLINE IN THE RANKS. THERE SHOULD BE MILITARY DRILL AND EXERCISES EVERY MORNING.
THE BRITISH ARE PLANNING A SIEGE ON KALPI!
LET'S GO OUT AND MEET THEM AT KOONCH.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. WE'LL FACE THEM IN THE OPEN.
WE MUST HAVE A STRONG REARGUARD!
WE'RE ALL VETERANS IN THE ART OF WAR! LET THE BRITISH COME!

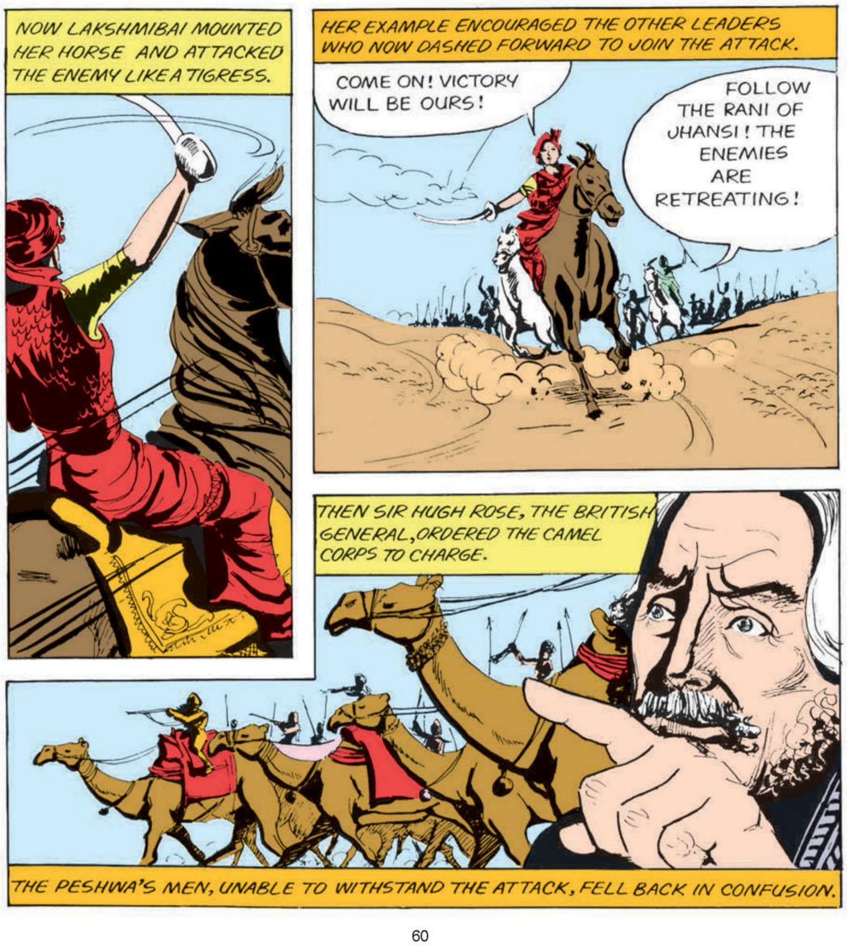

BUT THE OVER-CONFIDENT NATIONALIST LEADERS DID NOT HEED LAKSHMIBAI'S COUNSEL ABOUT A STRONG REARGUARD AND RAO SAHEB'S ARMY WAS ROUTED.
ALL IS LOST! LET'S FLEE!


THERE IS NO HOPE NOW. WE MIGHT AS WELL SURRENDER!
WE'VE BEEN UTTERLY DEFEATED!
DON'T LOSE HEART. THE NAWAB OF BANDA HAS JUST ARRIVED WITH A FORCE OF 2,000 CAVALRY, GUNS AND INFANTRY!


RAO SAHEB HELD A COUNCIL OF WAR TO CONSIDER THEIR NEXT MOVE.
OUR SITUATION IS BECOMING WORSE EVERY HOUR. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE'LL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN.
WE SHOULD FIGHT TO THE END. WE CAN STILL RETRIEVE OUR HONOUR IF WE OFFER A DETERMINED RESISTANCE AND THE TROOPS OBSERVE DISCIPLINE.



BUT THE CLEVER STRATEGY OF THE BRITISH AGAIN WON THE DAY AND RAO SAHEB'S ARMY FLED IN CONFUSION.



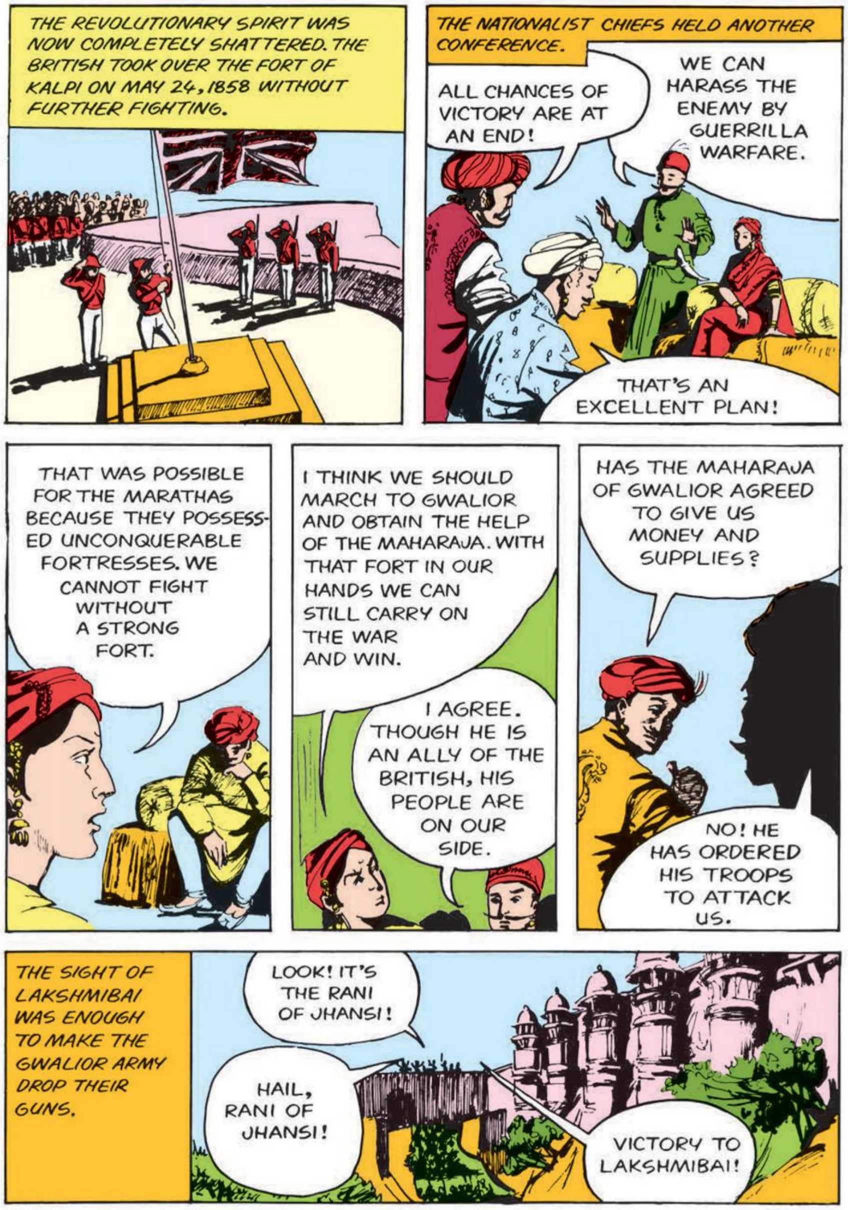
NOW LAKSHMIBAI MOUNTED HER HORSE AND ATTACKED THE ENEMY LIKE A TIGRESS.

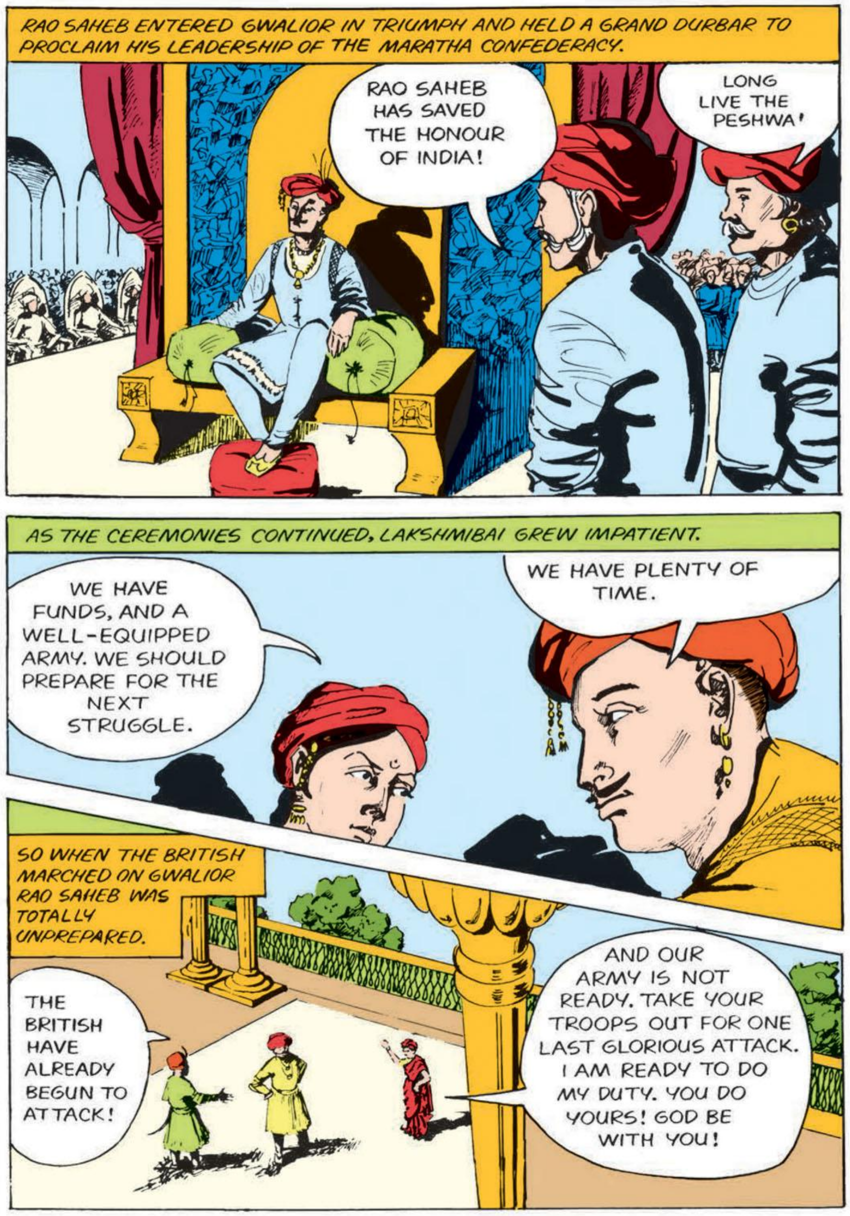
HER EXAMPLE ENCOURAGED THE OTHER LEADERS WHO NOW DASHED FORWARD TO JOIN THE ATTACK.

COME ON! VICTORY WILL BE OURS!
FOLLOW THE RANI OF JHANSI! THE ENEMIES ARE RETREATING!

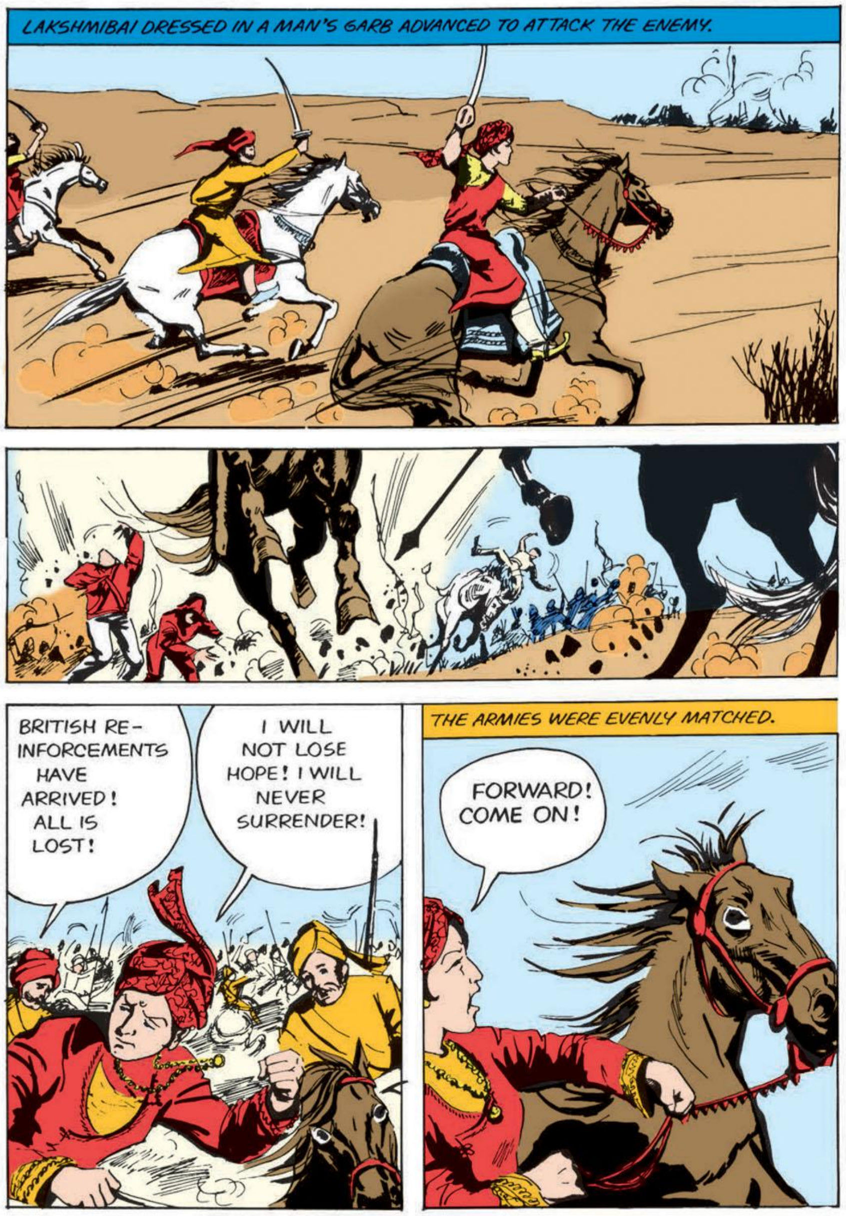
THEN SIR HUGH ROSE, THE BRITISH GENERAL, ORDERED THE CAMEL CORPS TO CHARGE.

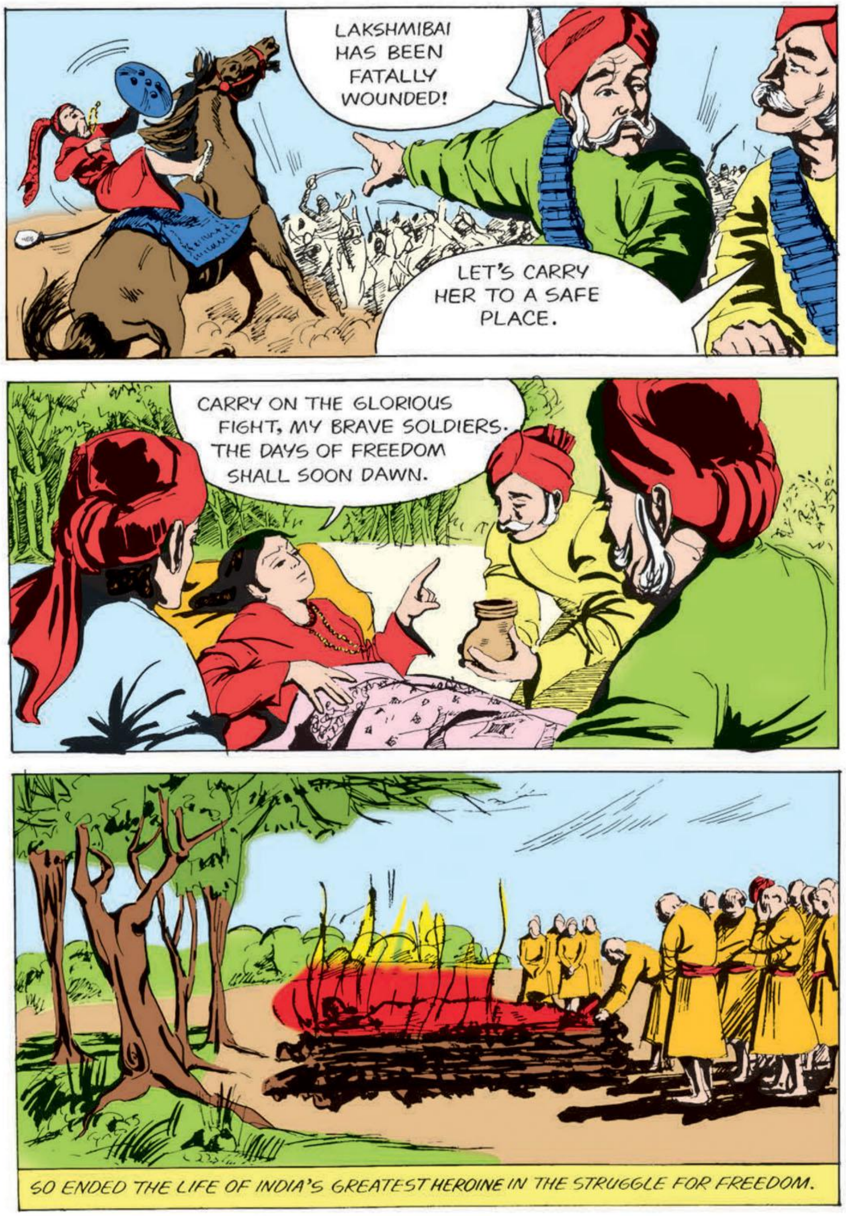
THE PESHWA'S MEN, UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE ATTACK, FELL BACK IN CONFUSION.


THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT WAS NOW COMPLETELY SHATTERED. THE BRITISH TOOK OVER THE FORT OF KALPI ON MAY 24, 1858 WITHOUT FURTHER FIGHTING.
THE NATIONALIST CHIEFS HELD ANOTHER CONFERENCE.
ALL CHANCES OF VICTORY ARE AT AN END!
WE CAN HARASS THE ENEMY BY GUERRILLA WARFARE.
THAT'S AN EXCELLENT PLAN!
THAT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE MARATHAS BECAUSE THEY POSSESSED UNCONQUERABLE FORTRESSES. WE CANNOT FIGHT WITHOUT A STRONG FORT.
I THINK WE SHOULD MARCH TO GWALIOR AND OBTAIN THE HELP OF THE MAHARAJA. WITH THAT FORT IN OUR HANDS WE CAN STILL CARRY ON THE WAR AND WIN.
I AGREE. THOUGH HE IS AN ALLY OF THE BRITISH, HIS PEOPLE ARE ON OUR SIDE.
HAS THE MAHARAJA OF GWALIOR AGREED TO GIVE US MONEY AND SUPPLIES?
NO! HE HAS ORDERED HIS TROOPS TO ATTACK US.
THE SIGHT OF LAKSHMIBAI WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE GWALIOR ARMY DROP THEIR GUNS.
LOOK! IT'S THE RANI OF JHANSI!
HAIL, RANI OF JHANSI!
VICTORY TO LAKSHMIBAI!

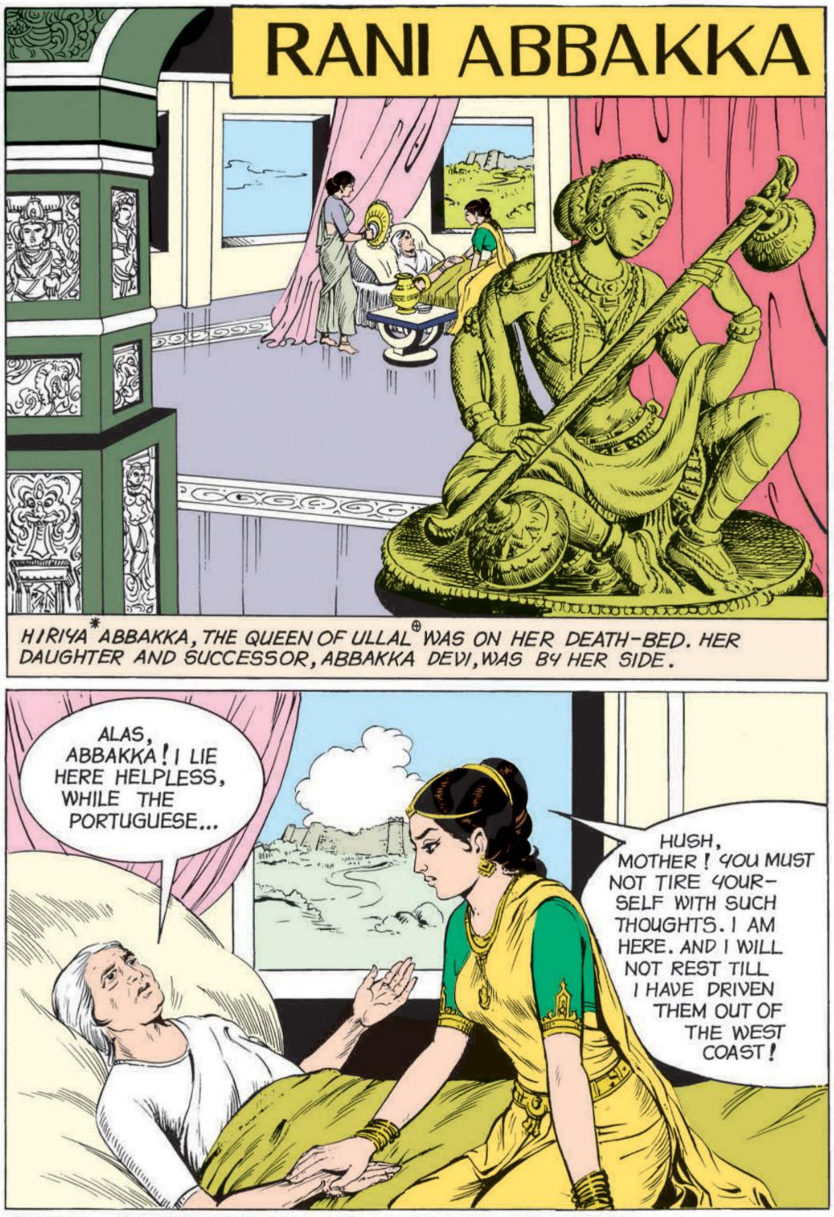


RAO SAHEB ENTERED GWALIOR IN TRIUMPH AND HELD A GRAND DURBAR TO PROCLAIM HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE MARATHA CONFEDERACY.
RAO SAHEB HAS SAVED THE HONOUR OF INDIA!
LONG LIVE THE PESHWA!
AS THE CEREMONIES CONTINUED, LAKSHMIBAI GREW IMPATIENT.
WE HAVE FUNDS, AND A WELL-EQUIPPED ARMY. WE SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE NEXT STRUGGLE.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.
SO WHEN THE BRITISH MARCHED ON GWALIOR RAO SAHEB WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED.
THE BRITISH HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ATTACK!
AND OUR ARMY IS NOT READY. TAKE YOUR TROOPS OUT FOR ONE LAST GLORIOUS ATTACK. I AM READY TO DO MY DUTY. YOU DO YOURS! GOD BE WITH YOU!


LAKSHMIBAI DRESSED IN A MAN'S GARB ADVANCED TO ATTACK THE ENEMY.
BRITISH RE-INFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED! ALL IS LOST!
I WILL NOT LOSE HOPE! I WILL NEVER SURRENDER!
THE ARMIES WERE EVENLY MATCHED.
FORWARD! COME ON!


LAKSHMIBAI HAS BEEN FATALLY WOUNDED!
LET'S CARRY HER TO A SAFE PLACE.
CARRY ON THE GLORIOUS FIGHT, MY BRAVE SOLDIERS. THE DAYS OF FREEDOM SHALL SOON DAWN.
SO ENDED THE LIFE OF INDIA'S GREATEST HEROINE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.

# RANI ABBAKKA


HIRIYA* ABBAKKA, THE QUEEN OF ULLAL⊕ WAS ON HER DEATH-BED. HER DAUGHTER AND SUCCESSOR, ABBAKKA DEVI, WAS BY HER SIDE.
ALAS, ABBAKKA! I LIE HERE HELPLESS, WHILE THE PORTUGUESE...
HUSH, MOTHER! YOU MUST NOT TIRE YOURSELF WITH SUCH THOUGHTS. I AM HERE. AND I WILL NOT REST TILL I HAVE DRIVEN THEM OUT OF THE WEST COAST!

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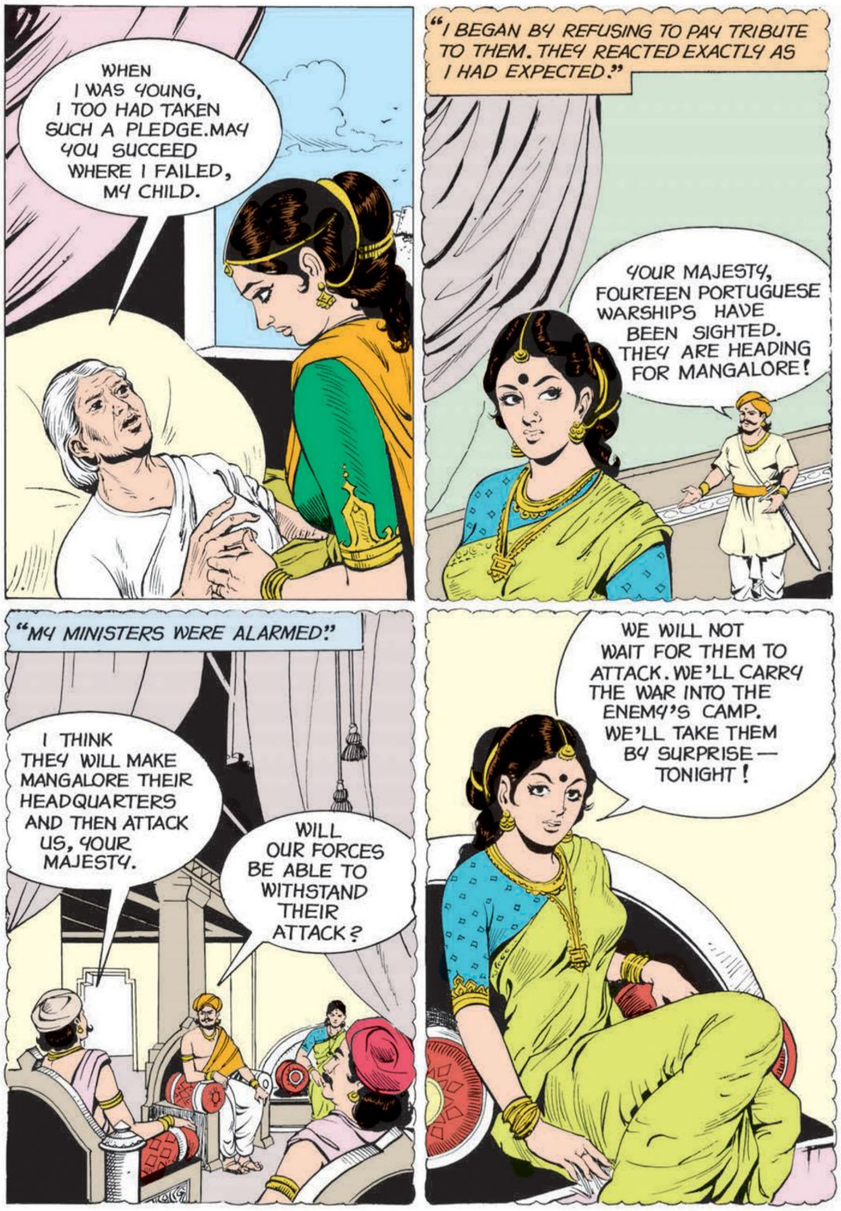
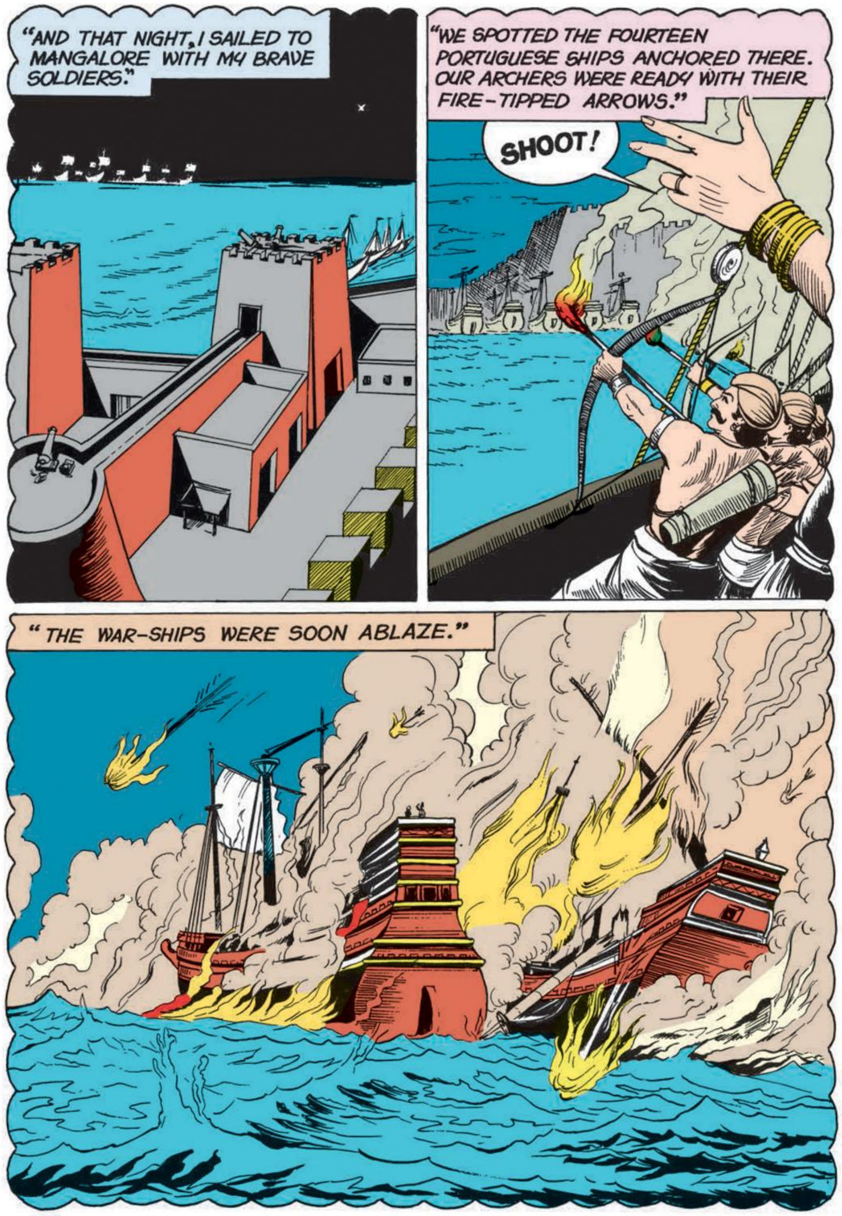
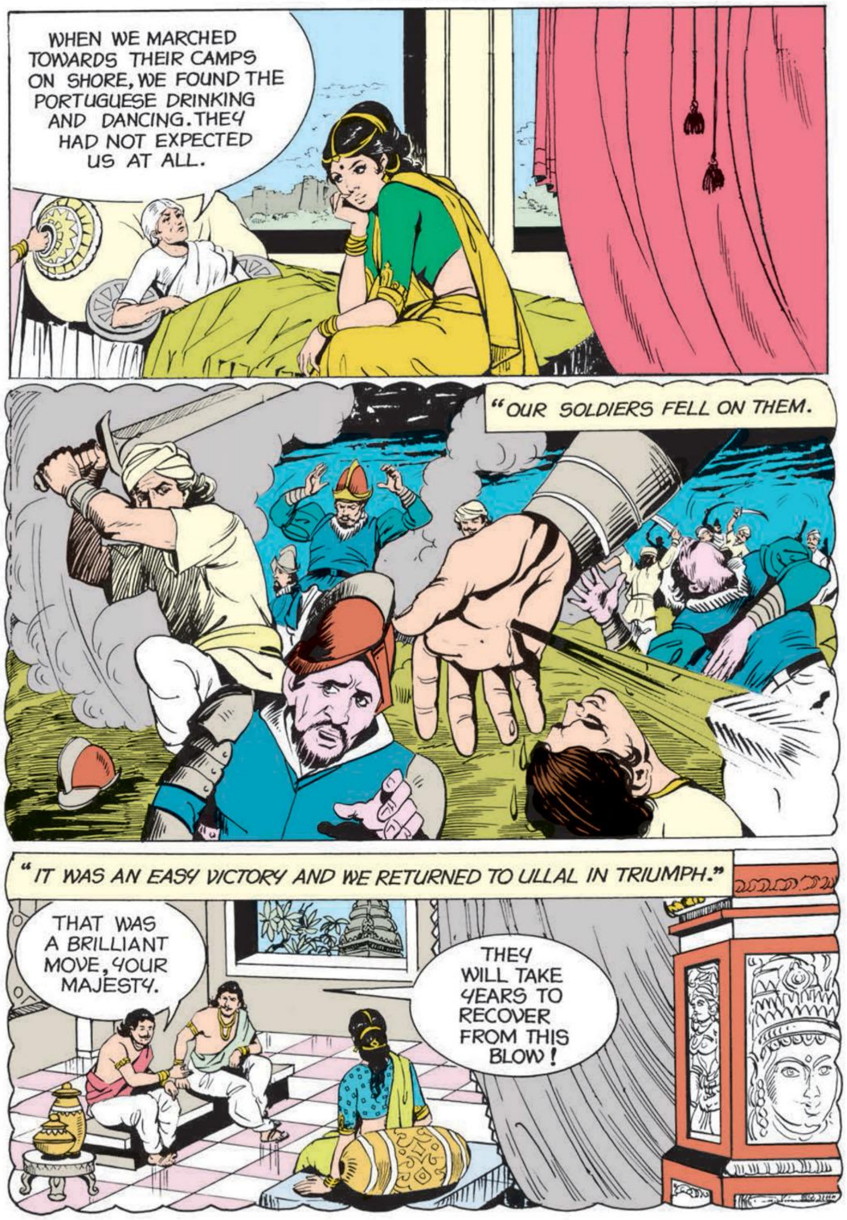
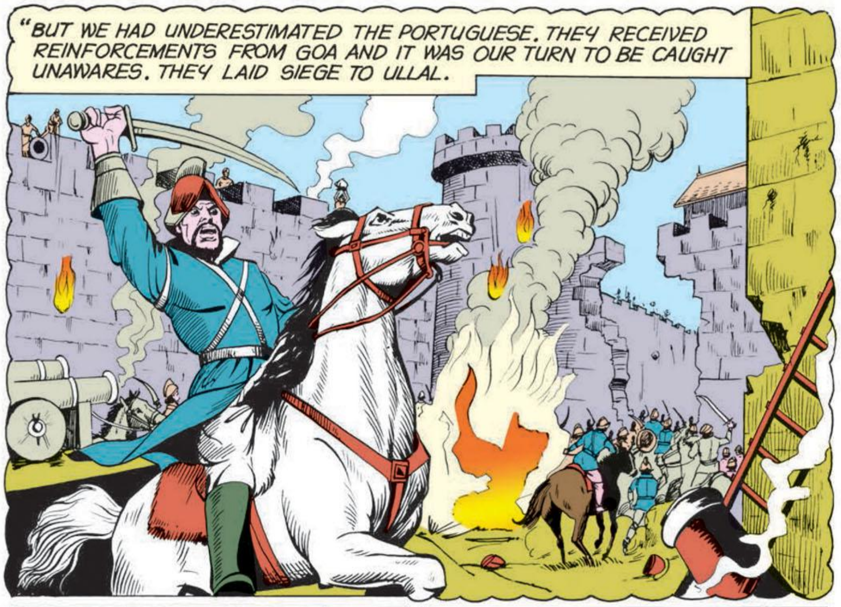
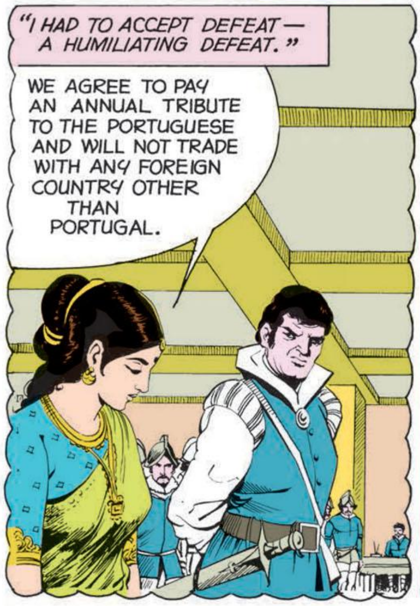
*SENIOR ⊕A SMALL PRINCIPALITY ON THE WEST COAST OF KARNATAKA.

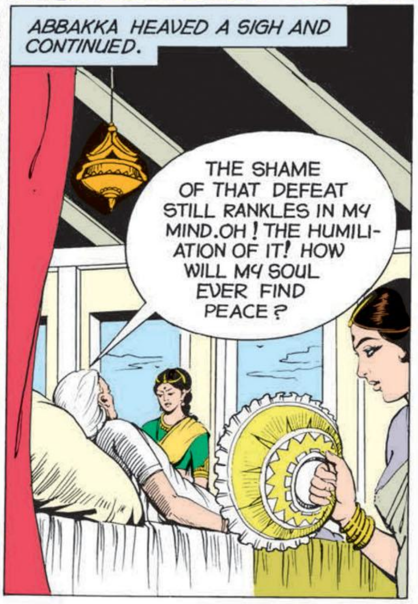

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I TOO HAD TAKEN SUCH A PLEDGE. MAY YOU SUCCEED WHERE I FAILED, MY CHILD.
"I BEGAN BY REFUSING TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THEM. THEY REACTED EXACTLY AS I HAD EXPECTED."
YOUR MAJESTY, FOURTEEN PORTUGUESE WARSHIPS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED. THEY ARE HEADING FOR MANGALORE!
"MY MINISTERS WERE ALARMED."
I THINK THEY WILL MAKE MANGALORE THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND THEN ATTACK US, YOUR MAJESTY.
WILL OUR FORCES BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THEIR ATTACK?
WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR THEM TO ATTACK. WE'LL CARRY THE WAR INTO THE ENEMY'S CAMP. WE'LL TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE — TONIGHT!

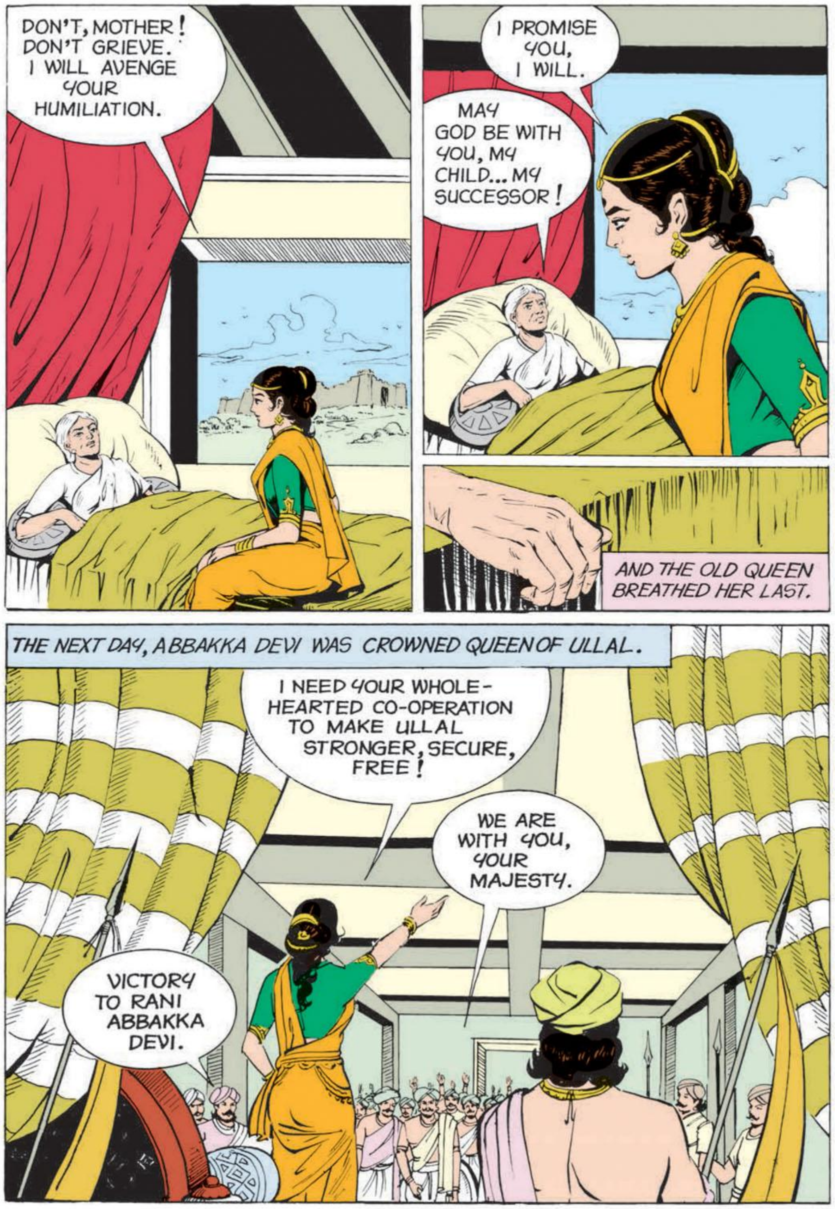

"AND THAT NIGHT, I SAILED TO MANGALORE WITH MY BRAVE SOLDIERS."
"WE SPOTTED THE FOURTEEN PORTUGUESE SHIPS ANCHORED THERE. OUR ARCHERS WERE READY WITH THEIR FIRE-TIPPED ARROWS."
SHOOT!
"THE WAR-SHIPS WERE SOON ABLAZE."

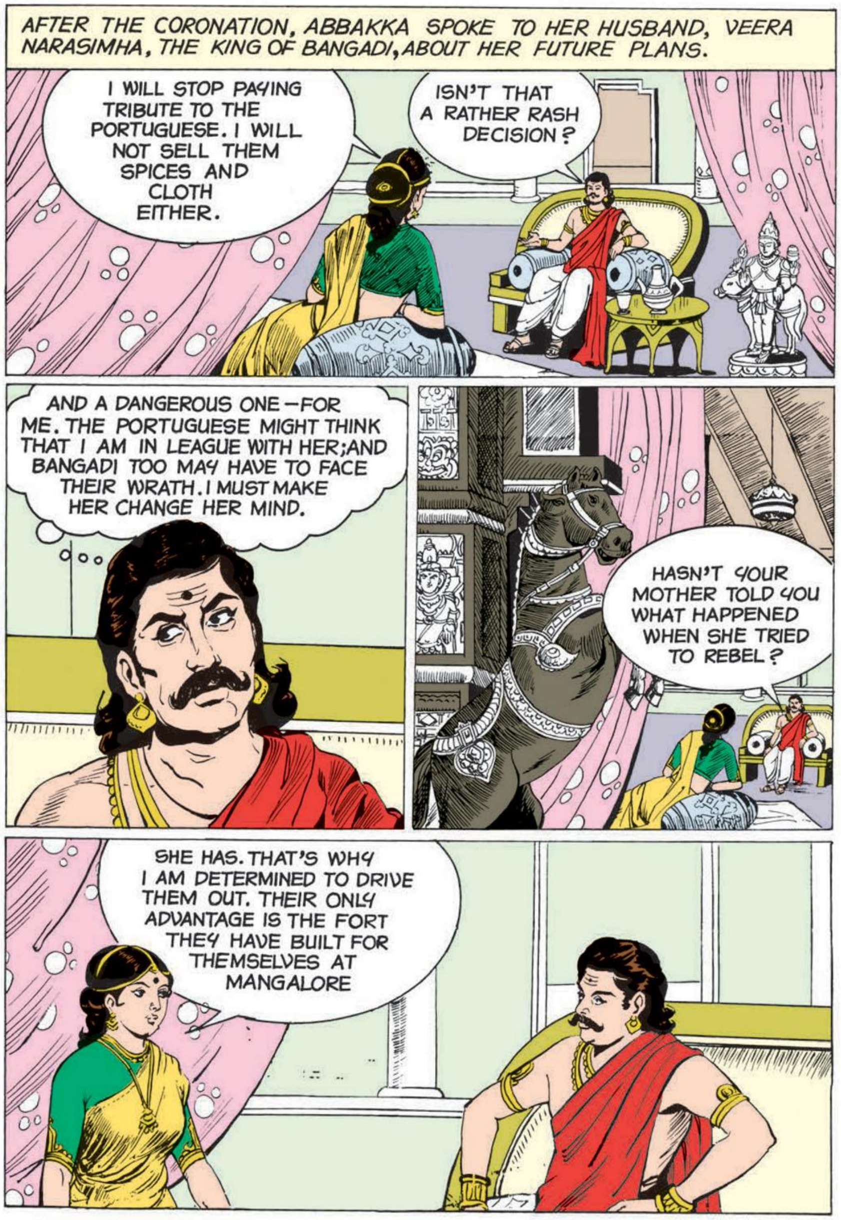

WHEN WE MARCHED TOWARDS THEIR CAMPS ON SHORE, WE FOUND THE PORTUGUESE DRINKING AND DANCING. THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED US AT ALL.
"OUR SOLDIERS FELL ON THEM.
"IT WAS AN EASY VICTORY AND WE RETURNED TO ULLAL IN TRIUMPH."
THAT WAS A BRILLIANT MOVE, YOUR MAJESTY.
THEY WILL TAKE YEARS TO RECOVER FROM THIS BLOW!

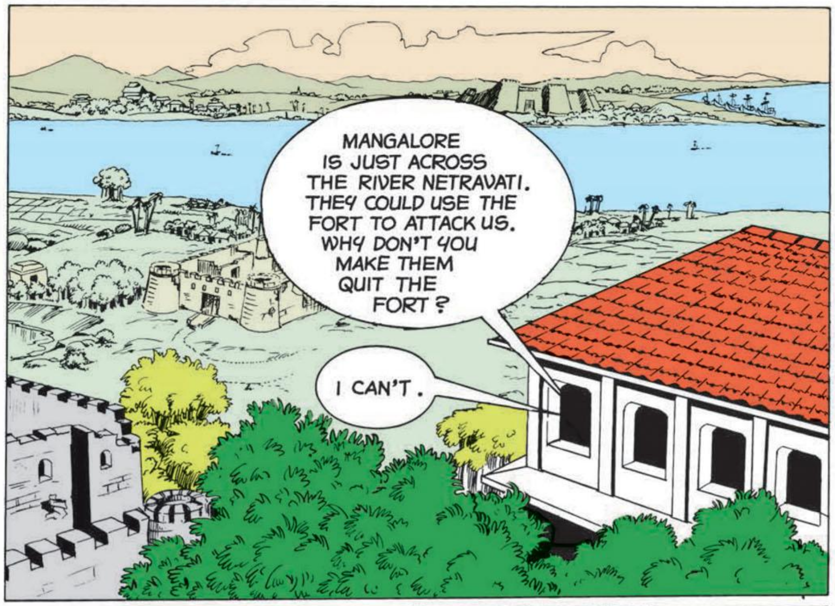

"BUT WE HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE PORTUGUESE. THEY RECEIVED REINFORCEMENTS FROM GOA AND IT WAS OUR TURN TO BE CAUGHT UNAWARES. THEY LAID SIEGE TO ULLAL.

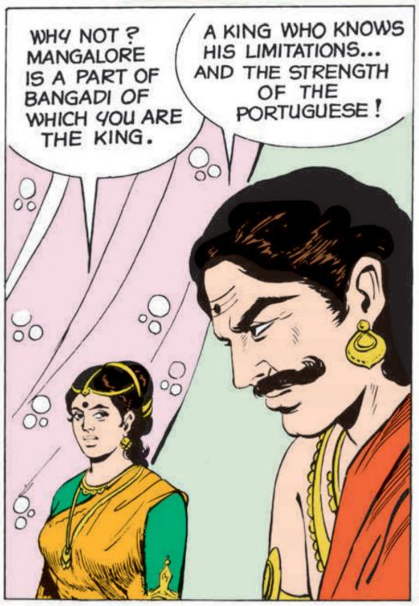

"I HAD TO ACCEPT DEFEAT — A HUMILIATING DEFEAT."
WE AGREE TO PAY AN ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO THE PORTUGUESE AND WILL NOT TRADE WITH ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY OTHER THAN PORTUGAL.

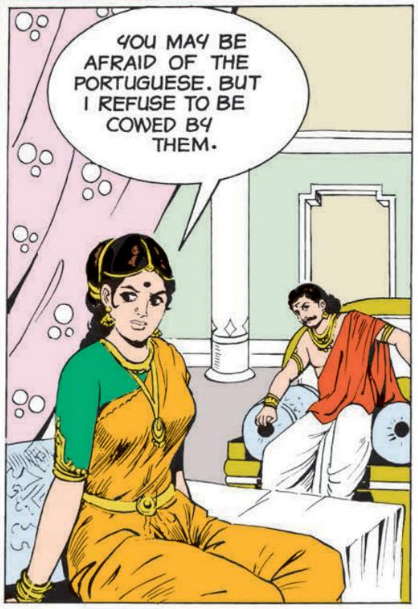

ABBAKKA HEAVED A SIGH AND CONTINUED.
THE SHAME OF THAT DEFEAT STILL RANKLES IN MY MIND. OH ! THE HUMILIATION OF IT! HOW WILL MY SOUL EVER FIND PEACE ?

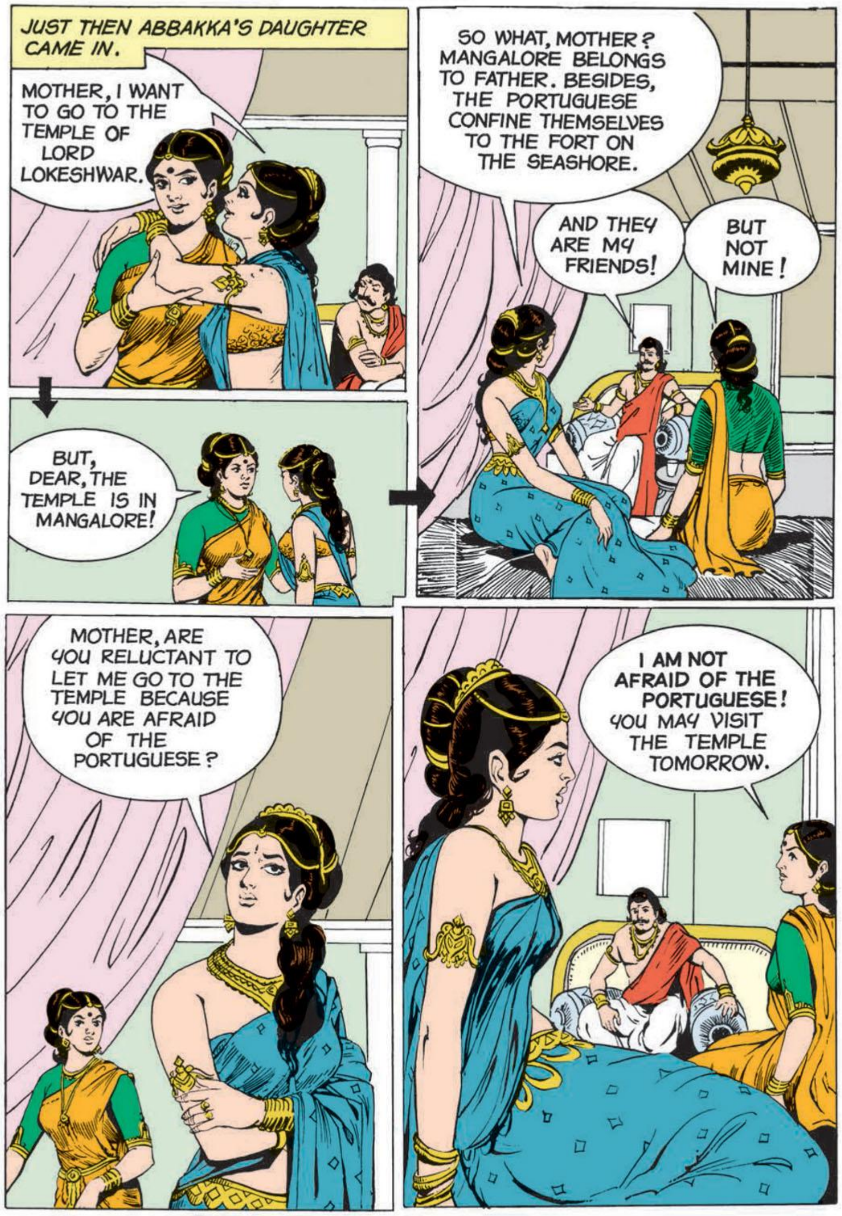

DON'T, MOTHER! DON'T GRIEVE. I WILL AVENGE YOUR HUMILIATION.
I PROMISE YOU, I WILL.
MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, MY CHILD... MY SUCCESSOR!
AND THE OLD QUEEN BREATHED HER LAST.
THE NEXT DAY, ABBAKKA DEVI WAS CROWNED QUEEN OF ULLAL.
I NEED YOUR WHOLE-HEARTED CO-OPERATION TO MAKE ULLAL STRONGER, SECURE, FREE!
WE ARE WITH YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
VICTORY TO RANI ABBAKKA DEVI.

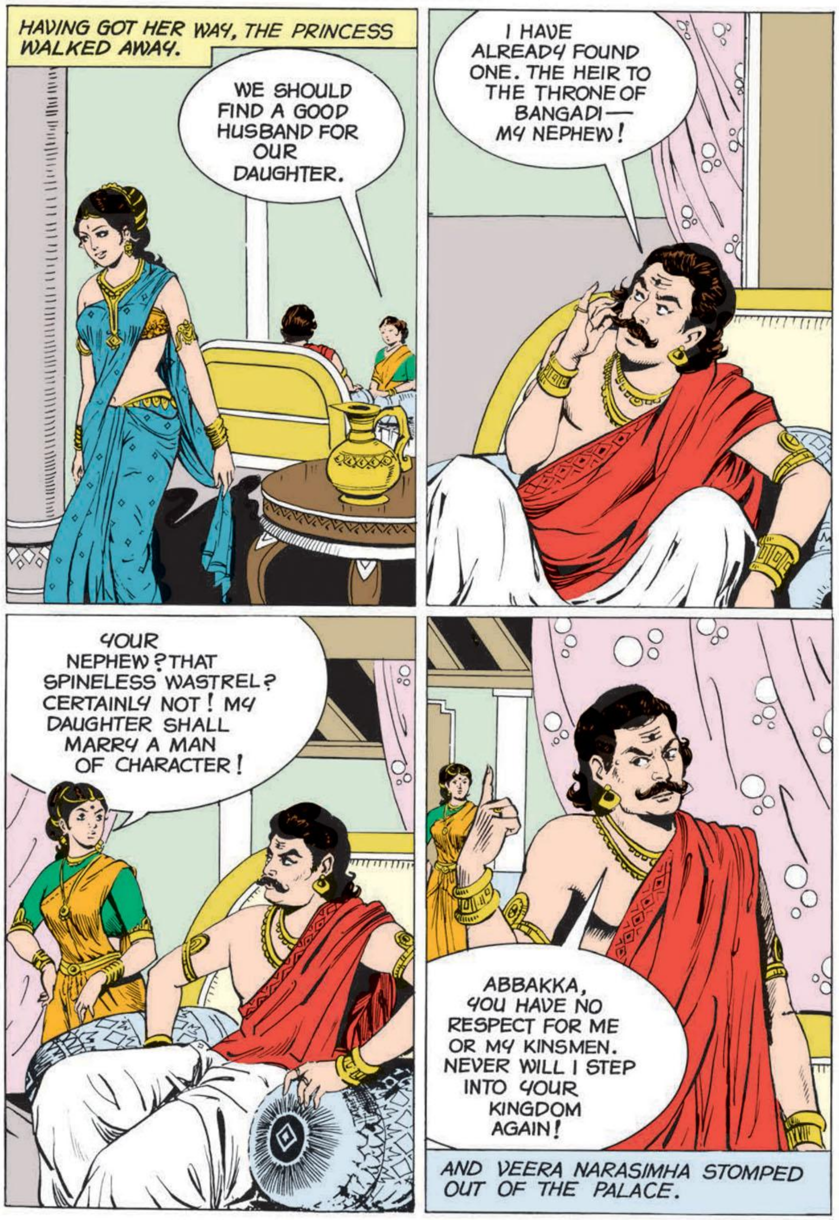

AFTER THE CORONATION, ABBAKKA SPOKE TO HER HUSBAND, VEERA NARASIMHA, THE KING OF BANGADI, ABOUT HER FUTURE PLANS.
I WILL STOP PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE PORTUGUESE. I WILL NOT SELL THEM SPICES AND CLOTH EITHER.
ISN'T THAT A RATHER RASH DECISION?
AND A DANGEROUS ONE—FOR ME. THE PORTUGUESE MIGHT THINK THAT I AM IN LEAGUE WITH HER; AND BANGADI TOO MAY HAVE TO FACE THEIR WRATH. I MUST MAKE HER CHANGE HER MIND.
HASN'T YOUR MOTHER TOLD YOU WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SHE TRIED TO REBEL?
SHE HAS. THAT'S WHY I AM DETERMINED TO DRIVE THEM OUT. THEIR ONLY ADVANTAGE IS THE FORT THEY HAVE BUILT FOR THEMSELVES AT MANGALORE

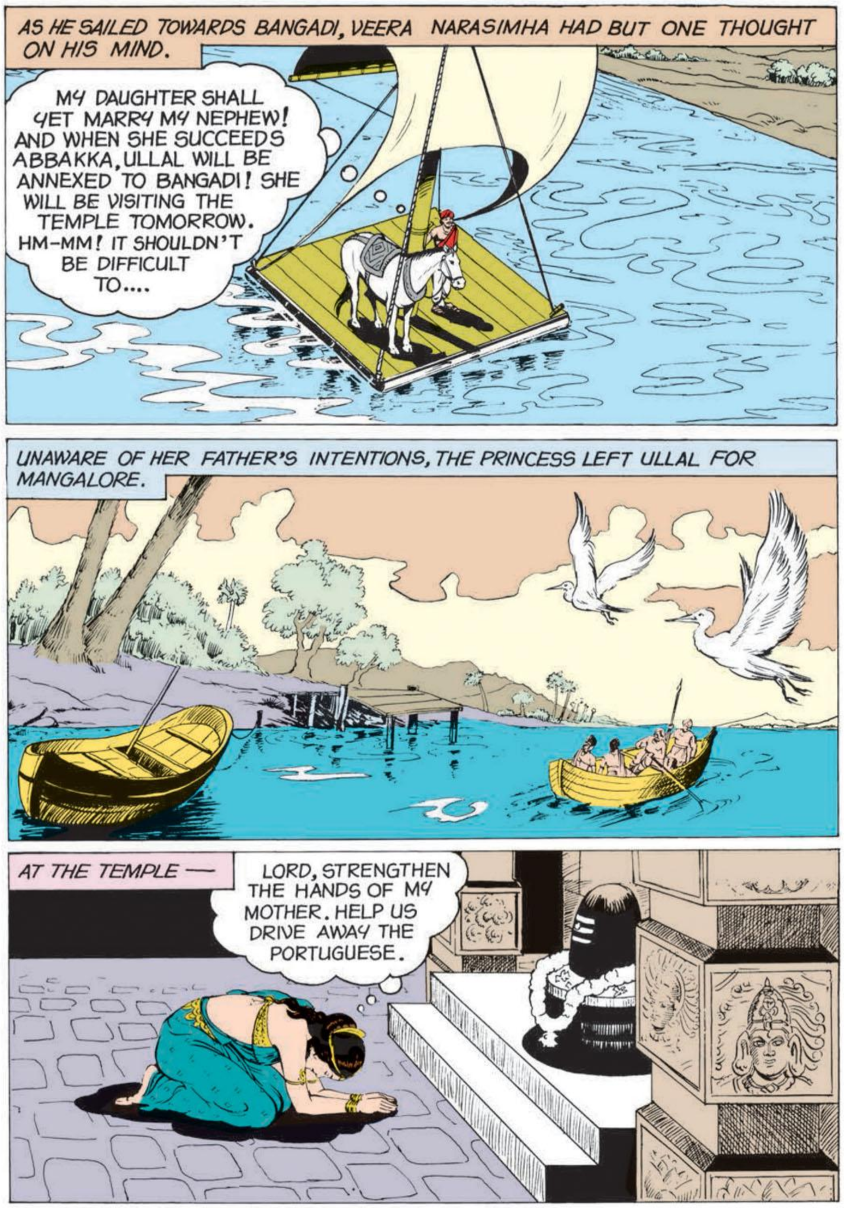

MANGALORE IS JUST ACROSS THE RIVER NETRAVATI. THEY COULD USE THE FORT TO ATTACK US. WHY DON'T YOU MAKE THEM QUIT THE FORT?
I CAN'T.

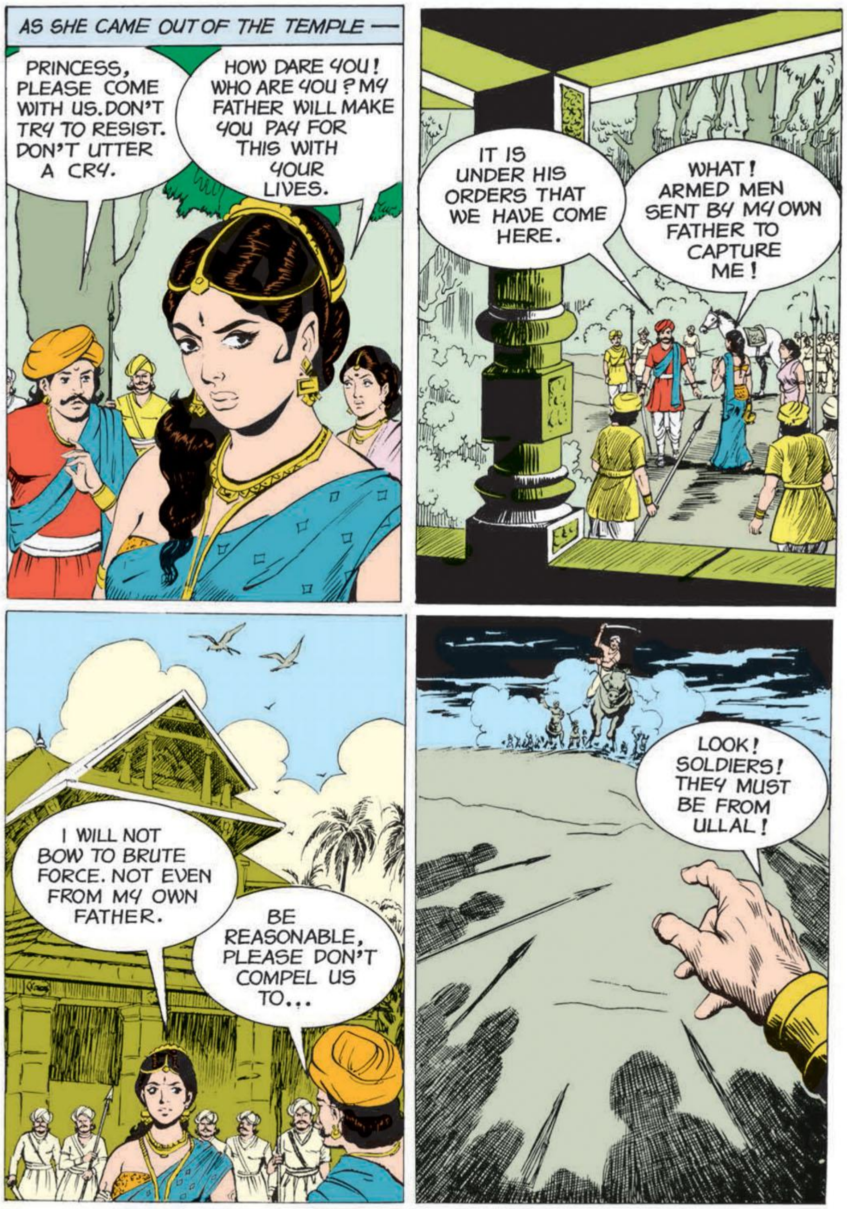

WHY NOT? MANGALORE IS A PART OF BANGADI OF WHICH YOU ARE THE KING.
A KING WHO KNOWS HIS LIMITATIONS... AND THE STRENGTH OF THE PORTUGUESE!

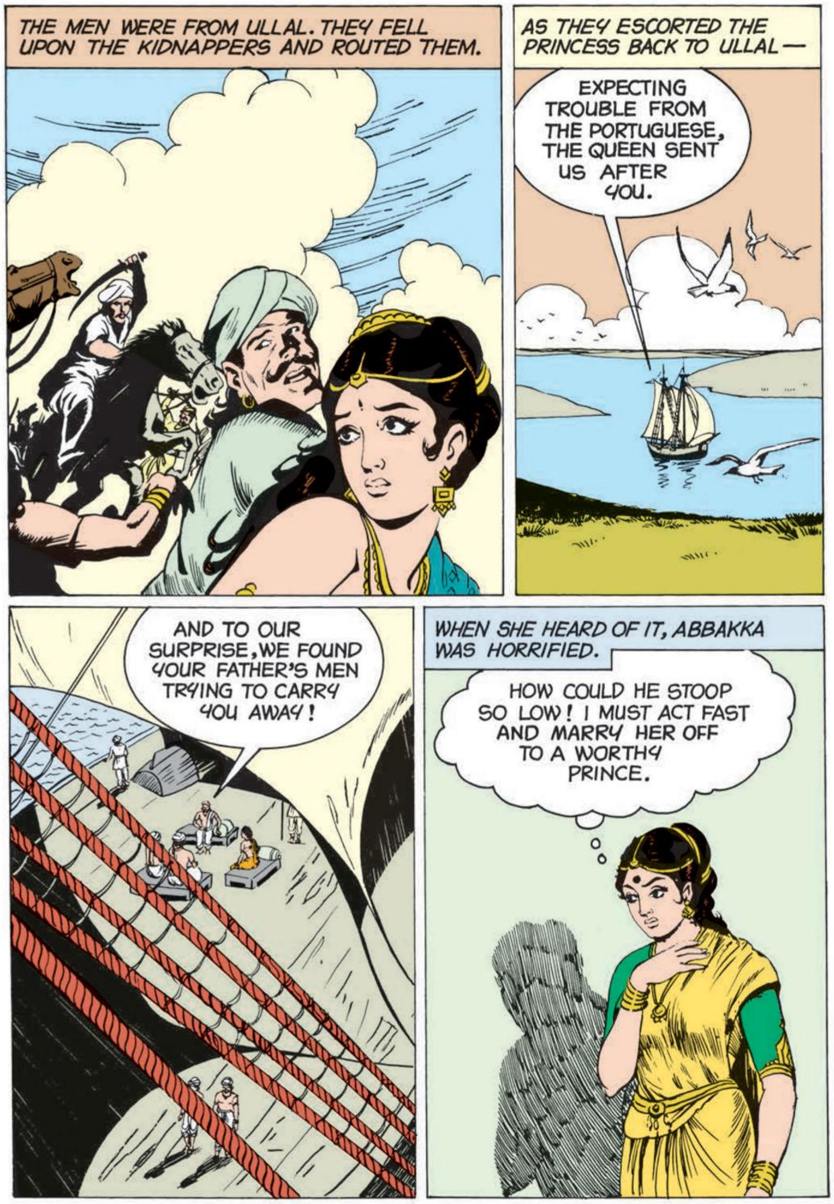

YOU MAY BE AFRAID OF THE PORTUGUESE. BUT I REFUSE TO BE COWED BY THEM.

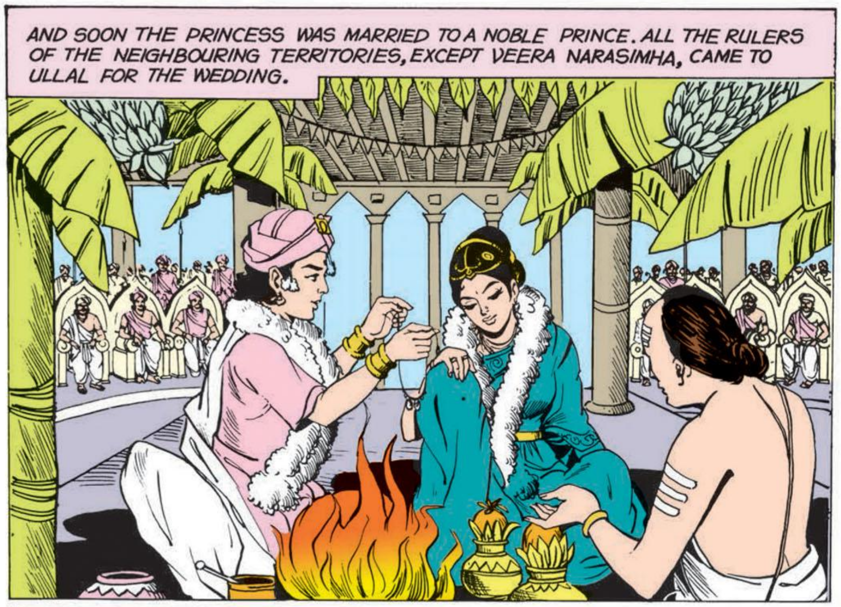

JUST THEN ABBAKKA'S DAUGHTER CAME IN.
MOTHER, I WANT TO GO TO THE TEMPLE OF LORD LOKESHWAR.
BUT, DEAR, THE TEMPLE IS IN MANGALORE!
SO WHAT, MOTHER? MANGALORE BELONGS TO FATHER. BESIDES, THE PORTUGUESE CONFINE THEMSELVES TO THE FORT ON THE SEASHORE.
AND THEY ARE MY FRIENDS!
BUT NOT MINE!
MOTHER, ARE YOU RELUCTANT TO LET ME GO TO THE TEMPLE BECAUSE YOU ARE AFRAID OF THE PORTUGUESE?
I AM NOT AFRAID OF THE PORTUGUESE! YOU MAY VISIT THE TEMPLE TOMORROW.

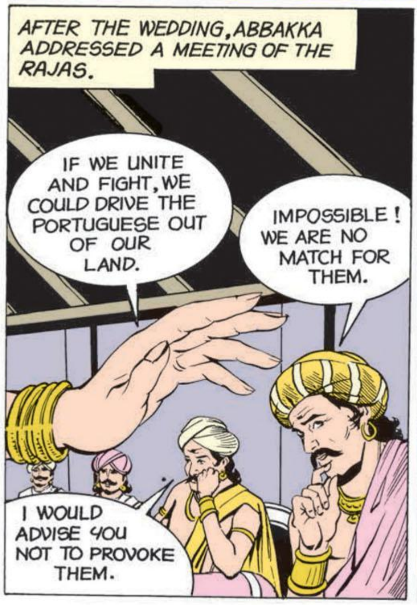

HAVING GOT HER WAY, THE PRINCESS WALKED AWAY.
WE SHOULD FIND A GOOD HUSBAND FOR OUR DAUGHTER.
I HAVE ALREADY FOUND ONE. THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF BANGADI — MY NEPHEW!
YOUR NEPHEW? THAT SPINELESS WASTREL? CERTAINLY NOT! MY DAUGHTER SHALL MARRY A MAN OF CHARACTER!
ABBAKKA, YOU HAVE NO RESPECT FOR ME OR MY KINSMEN. NEVER WILL I STEP INTO YOUR KINGDOM AGAIN!
AND VEERA NARASIMHA STOMPED OUT OF THE PALACE.

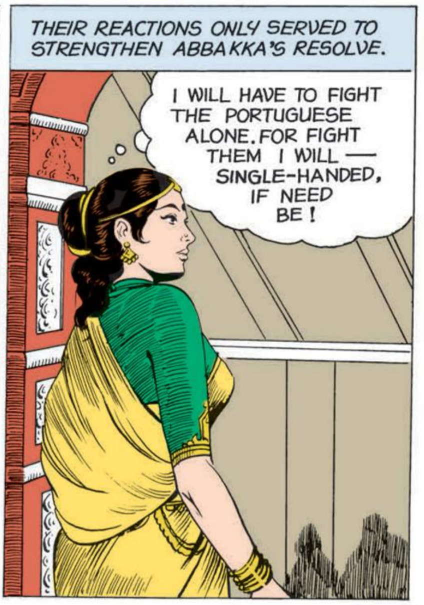

AS HE SAILED TOWARDS BANGADI, VEERA NARASIMHA HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT ON HIS MIND.
MY DAUGHTER SHALL YET MARRY MY NEPHEW! AND WHEN SHE SUCCEEDS ABBAKKA, ULLAL WILL BE ANNEXED TO BANGADI! SHE WILL BE VISITING THE TEMPLE TOMORROW. HM-MM! IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO....
UNAWARE OF HER FATHER'S INTENTIONS, THE PRINCESS LEFT ULLAL FOR MANGALORE.
AT THE TEMPLE —
LORD, STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF MY MOTHER. HELP US DRIVE AWAY THE PORTUGUESE.

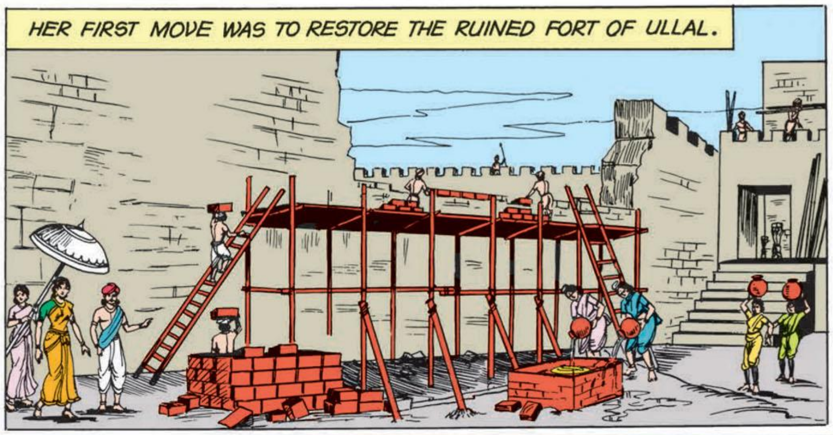

AS SHE CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE —
PRINCESS, PLEASE COME WITH US. DON'T TRY TO RESIST. DON'T UTTER A CRY.
HOW DARE YOU! WHO ARE YOU? MY FATHER WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS WITH YOUR LIVES.
IT IS UNDER HIS ORDERS THAT WE HAVE COME HERE.
WHAT! ARMED MEN SENT BY MY OWN FATHER TO CAPTURE ME!
I WILL NOT BOW TO BRUTE FORCE. NOT EVEN FROM MY OWN FATHER.
BE REASONABLE, PLEASE DON'T COMPEL US TO...
LOOK! SOLDIERS! THEY MUST BE FROM ULLAL!

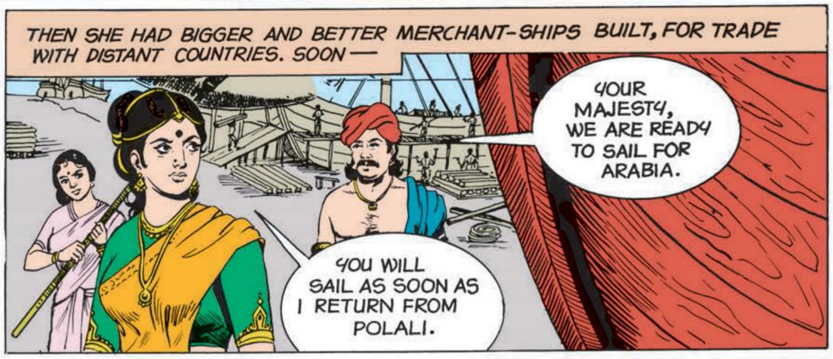

THE MEN WERE FROM ULLAL. THEY FELL UPON THE KIDNAPPERS AND ROUTED THEM.
AS THEY ESCORTED THE PRINCESS BACK TO ULLAL—
EXPECTING TROUBLE FROM THE PORTUGUESE, THE QUEEN SENT US AFTER YOU.
AND TO OUR SURPRISE, WE FOUND YOUR FATHER'S MEN TRYING TO CARRY YOU AWAY!
WHEN SHE HEARD OF IT, ABBAKKA WAS HORRIFIED.
HOW COULD HE STOOP SO LOW! I MUST ACT FAST AND MARRY HER OFF TO A WORTHY PRINCE.

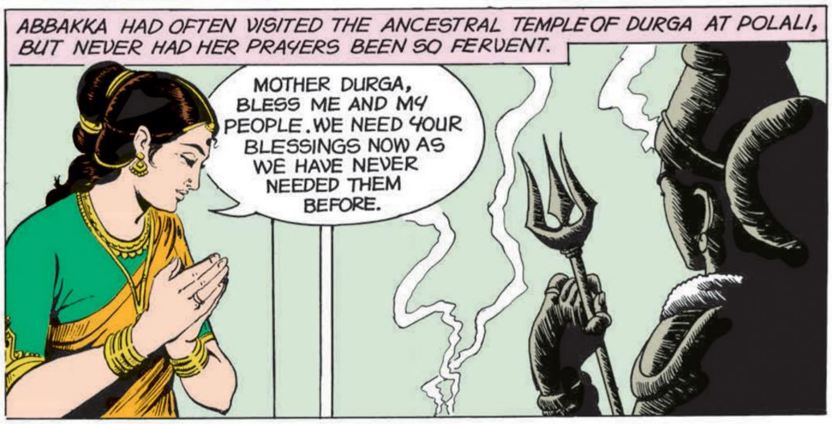

AND SOON THE PRINCESS WAS MARRIED TO A NOBLE PRINCE. ALL THE RULERS OF THE NEIGHBOURING TERRITORIES, EXCEPT VEERA NARASIMHA, CAME TO ULLAL FOR THE WEDDING.

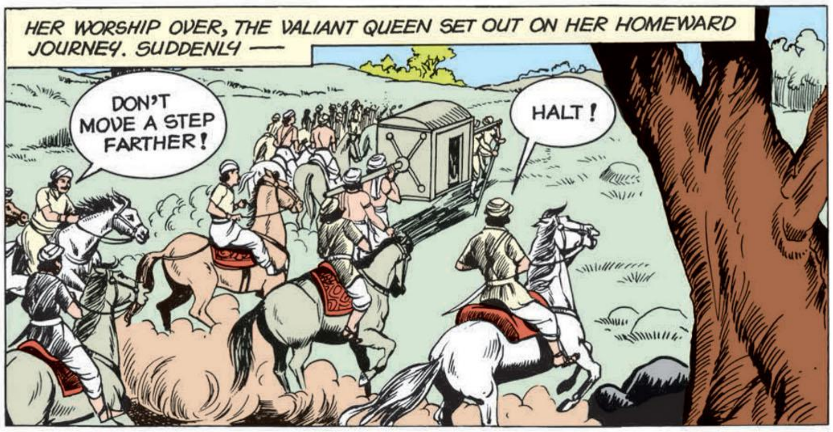

AFTER THE WEDDING, ABBAKKA ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE RAJAS.
IF WE UNITE AND FIGHT, WE COULD DRIVE THE PORTUGUESE OUT OF OUR LAND.
IMPOSSIBLE! WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THEM.
I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO PROVOKE THEM.

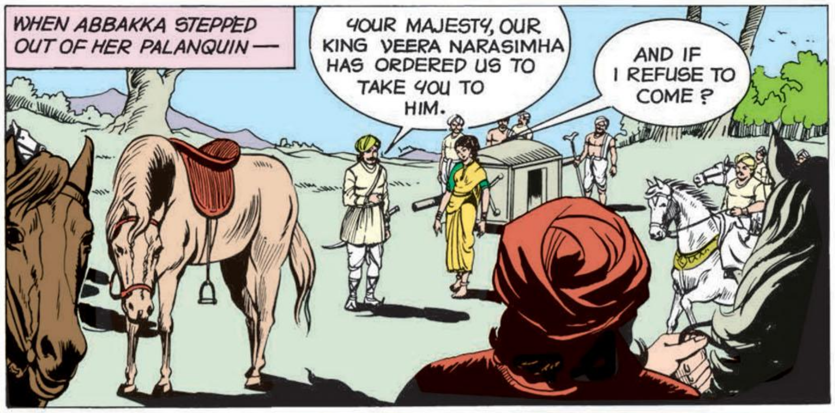

THEIR REACTIONS ONLY SERVED TO STRENGTHEN ABBAKKA'S RESOLVE.
I WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THE PORTUGUESE ALONE. FOR FIGHT THEM I WILL — SINGLE-HANDED, IF NEED BE!

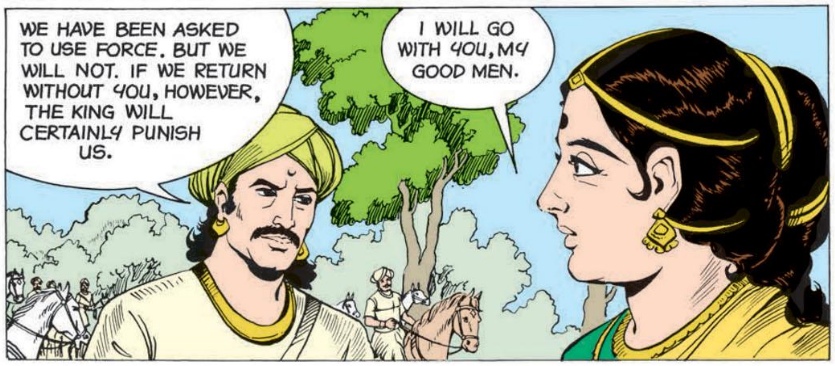

HER FIRST MOVE WAS TO RESTORE THE RUINED FORT OF ULLAL.

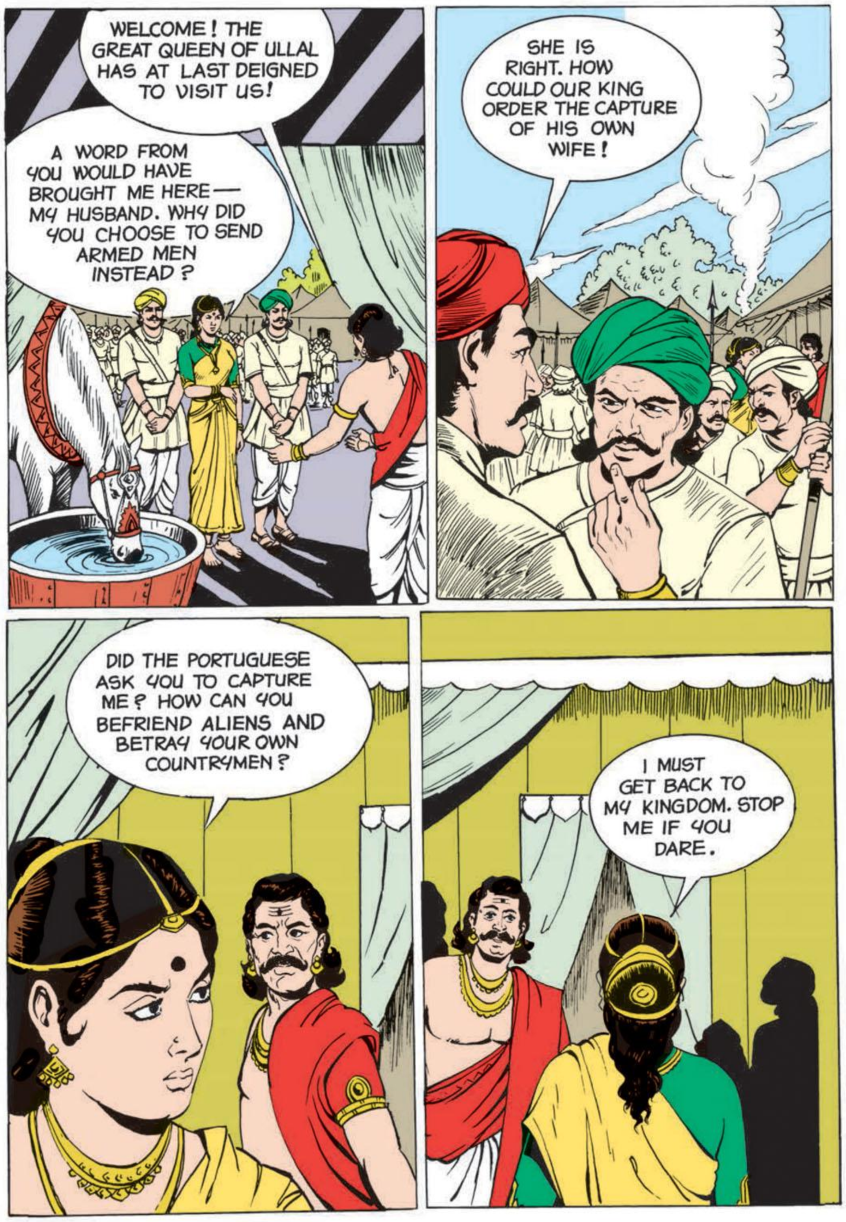

THEN SHE HAD BIGGER AND BETTER MERCHANT-SHIPS BUILT, FOR TRADE WITH DISTANT COUNTRIES. SOON —
YOUR MAJESTY, WE ARE READY TO SAIL FOR ARABIA.
YOU WILL SAIL AS SOON AS I RETURN FROM POLALI.

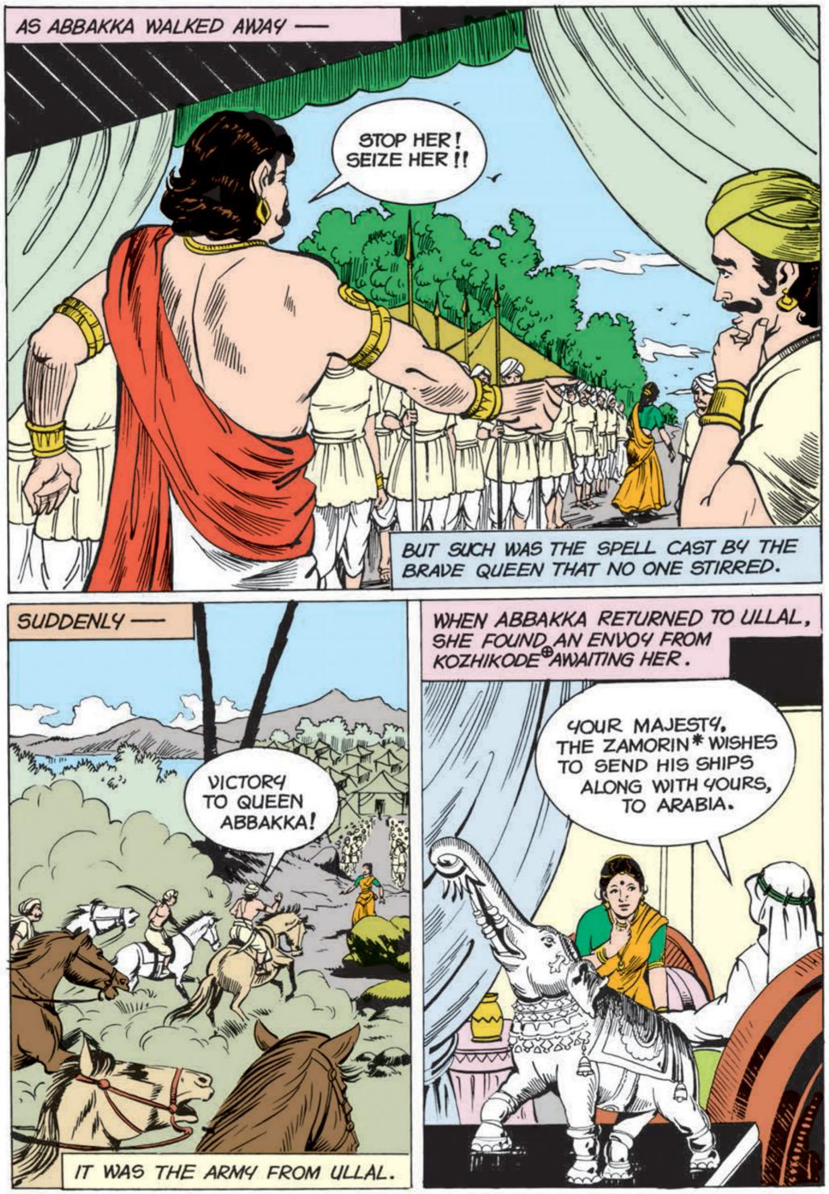

ABBAKKA HAD OFTEN VISITED THE ANCESTRAL TEMPLE OF DURGA AT POLALI, BUT NEVER HAD HER PRAYERS BEEN SO FERVENT.
MOTHER DURGA, BLESS ME AND MY PEOPLE. WE NEED YOUR BLESSINGS NOW AS WE HAVE NEVER NEEDED THEM BEFORE.


HER WORSHIP OVER, THE VALIANT QUEEN SET OUT ON HER HOMEWARD JOURNEY. SUDDENLY —
DON'T MOVE A STEP FARTHER!
HALT!


WHEN ABBAKKA STEPPED OUT OF HER PALANQUIN —
YOUR MAJESTY, OUR KING VEERA NARASIMHA HAS ORDERED US TO TAKE YOU TO HIM.
AND IF I REFUSE TO COME?

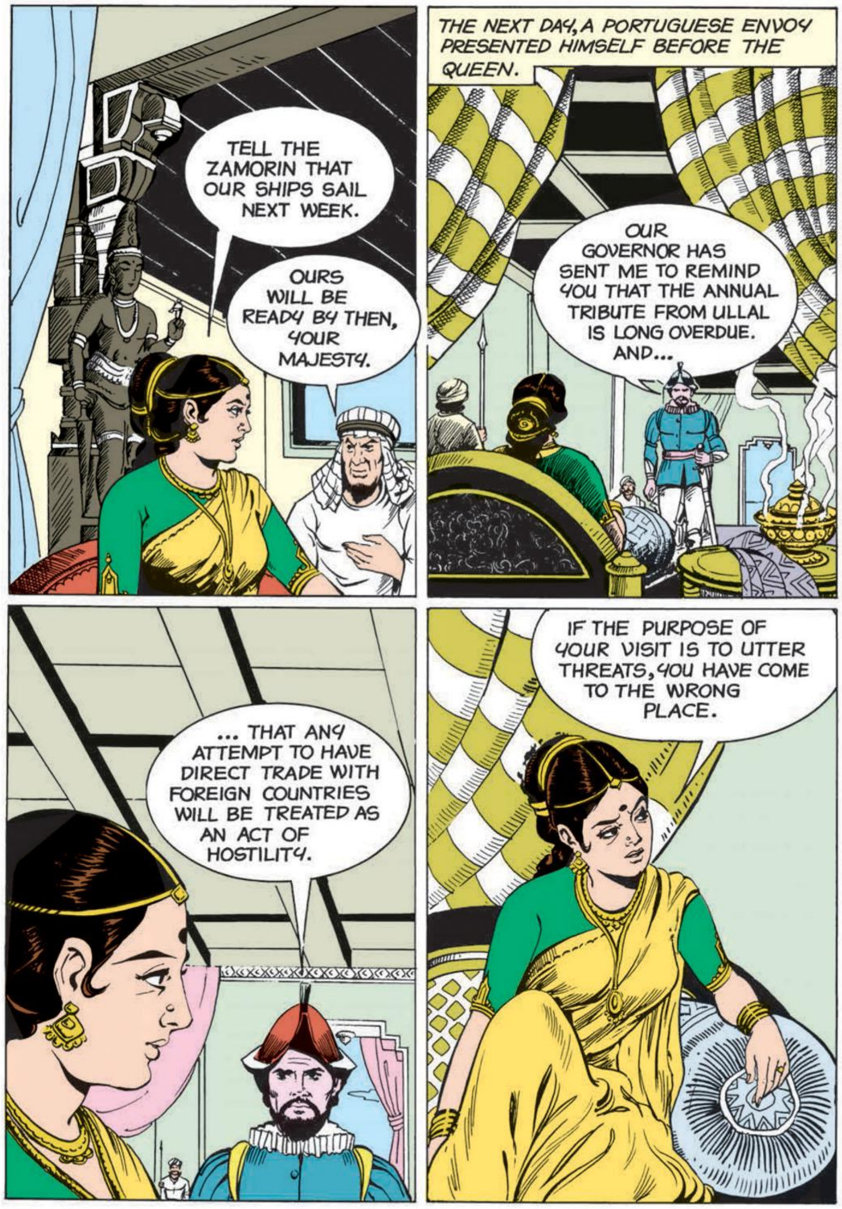

WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO USE FORCE. BUT WE WILL NOT. IF WE RETURN WITHOUT YOU, HOWEVER, THE KING WILL CERTAINLY PUNISH US.
I WILL GO WITH YOU, MY GOOD MEN.

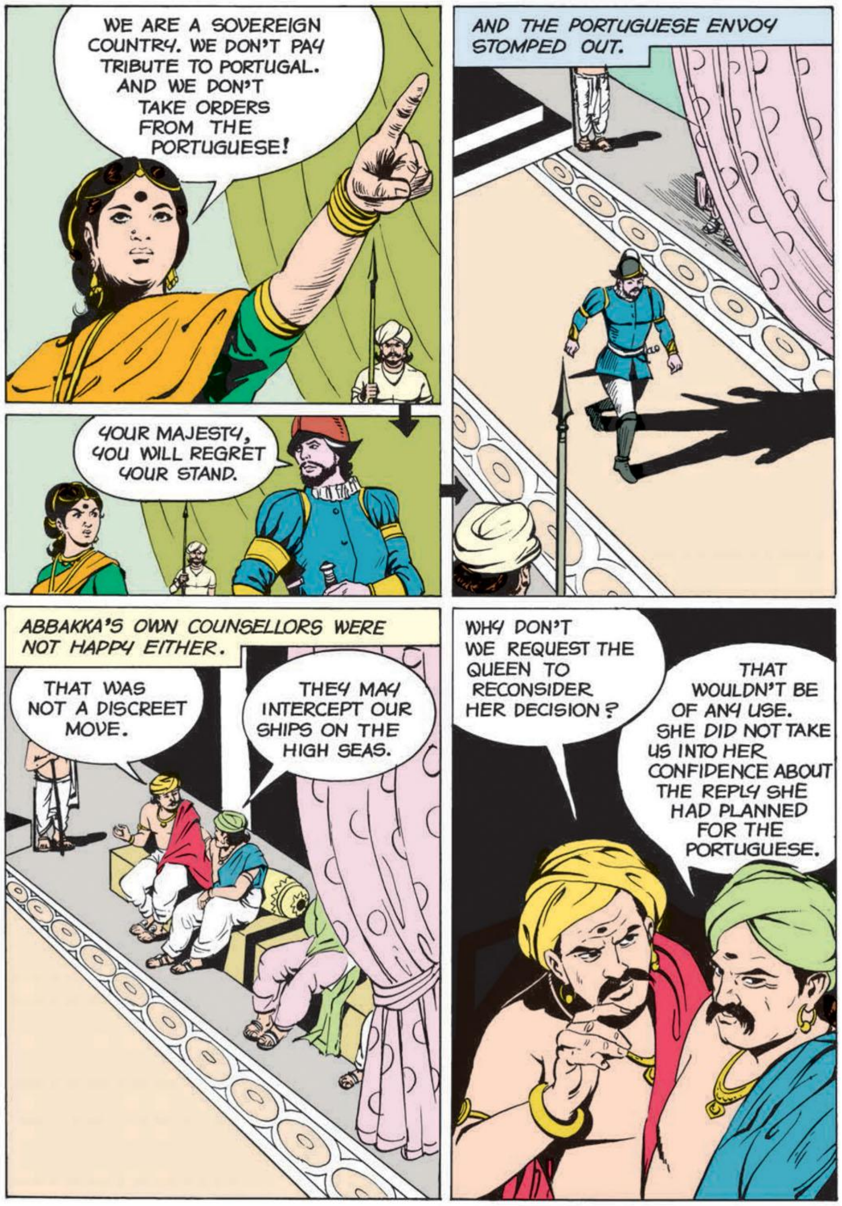

WELCOME! THE GREAT QUEEN OF ULLAL HAS AT LAST DEIGNED TO VISIT US!
A WORD FROM YOU WOULD HAVE BROUGHT ME HERE— MY HUSBAND. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO SEND ARMED MEN INSTEAD?
SHE IS RIGHT. HOW COULD OUR KING ORDER THE CAPTURE OF HIS OWN WIFE!
DID THE PORTUGUESE ASK YOU TO CAPTURE ME? HOW CAN YOU BEFRIEND ALIENS AND BETRAY YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN?
I MUST GET BACK TO MY KINGDOM. STOP ME IF YOU DARE.

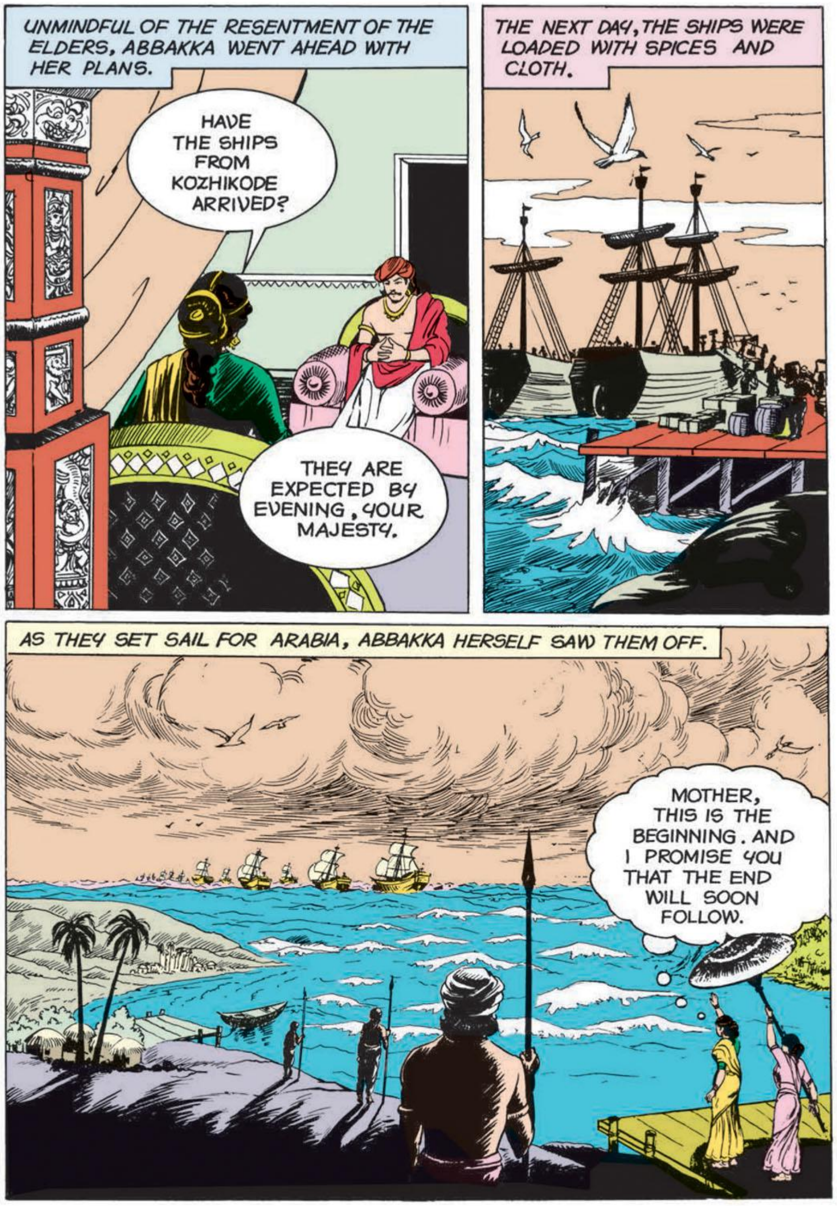

AS ABBAKKA WALKED AWAY —
STOP HER! SEIZE HER!!
BUT SUCH WAS THE SPELL CAST BY THE BRAVE QUEEN THAT NO ONE STIRRED.
SUDDENLY —
VICTORY TO QUEEN ABBAKKA!
IT WAS THE ARMY FROM ULLAL.
WHEN ABBAKKA RETURNED TO ULLAL, SHE FOUND AN ENVOY FROM KOZHIKODE⊕ AWAITING HER.
YOUR MAJESTY, THE ZAMORIN* WISHES TO SEND HIS SHIPS ALONG WITH YOURS, TO ARABIA.

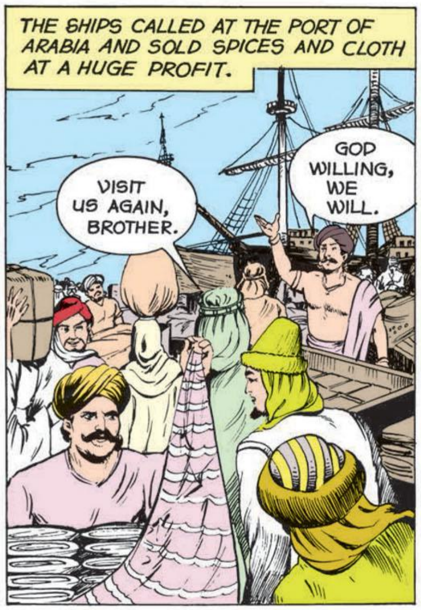
⊕ ALSO KNOWN AS CALICUT

* RULER OF KOZHIKODE.

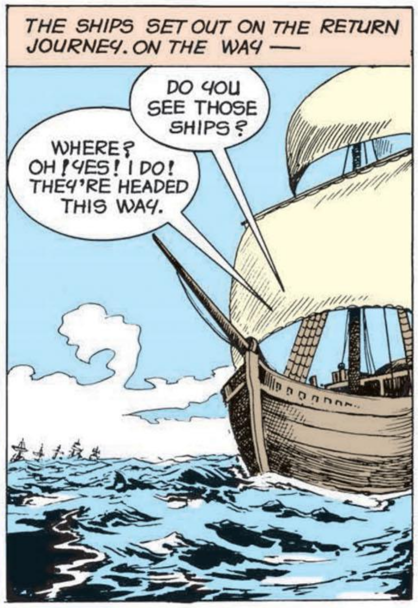

TELL THE ZAMORIN THAT OUR SHIPS SAIL NEXT WEEK.
OURS WILL BE READY BY THEN, YOUR MAJESTY.
THE NEXT DAY, A PORTUGUESE ENVOY PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE QUEEN.
OUR GOVERNOR HAS SENT ME TO REMIND YOU THAT THE ANNUAL TRIBUTE FROM ULLAL IS LONG OVERDUE. AND...
... THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO HAVE DIRECT TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL BE TREATED AS AN ACT OF HOSTILITY.
IF THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT IS TO UTTER THREATS, YOU HAVE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE.


WE ARE A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY. WE DON'T PAY TRIBUTE TO PORTUGAL. AND WE DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM THE PORTUGUESE!
YOUR MAJESTY, YOU WILL REGRET YOUR STAND.
AND THE PORTUGUESE ENVOY STOMPED OUT.
ABBAKKA'S OWN COUNSELLORS WERE NOT HAPPY EITHER.
THAT WAS NOT A DISCREET MOVE.
THEY MAY INTERCEPT OUR SHIPS ON THE HIGH SEAS.
WHY DON'T WE REQUEST THE QUEEN TO RECONSIDER HER DECISION?
THAT WOULDN'T BE OF ANY USE. SHE *DID* NOT TAKE US INTO HER CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE REPLY SHE HAD PLANNED FOR THE PORTUGUESE.

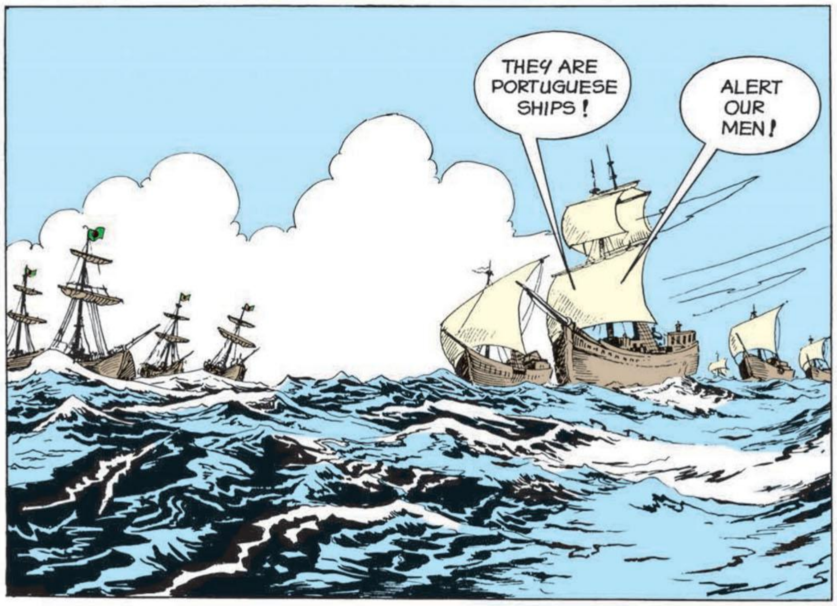

UNMINDFUL OF THE RESENTMENT OF THE ELDERS, ABBAKKA WENT AHEAD WITH HER PLANS.
HAVE THE SHIPS FROM KOZHIKODE ARRIVED?
THEY ARE EXPECTED BY EVENING, YOUR MAJESTY.
THE NEXT DAY, THE SHIPS WERE LOADED WITH SPICES AND CLOTH.
AS THEY SET SAIL FOR ARABIA, ABBAKKA HERSELF SAW THEM OFF.
MOTHER, THIS IS THE BEGINNING. AND I PROMISE YOU THAT THE END WILL SOON FOLLOW.


THE SHIPS CALLED AT THE PORT OF ARABIA AND SOLD SPICES AND CLOTH AT A HUGE PROFIT.

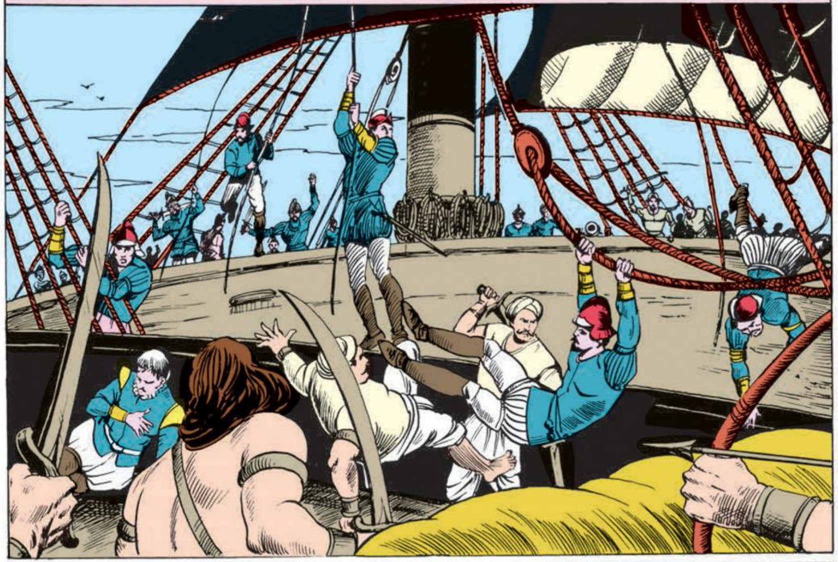
VISIT US AGAIN, BROTHER.
GOD WILLING, WE WILL.


THE SHIPS SET OUT ON THE RETURN JOURNEY. ON THE WAY —

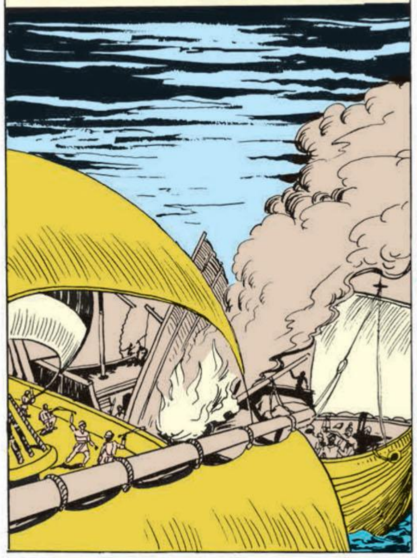
DO YOU SEE THOSE SHIPS?
WHERE? OH! YES! I DO! THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY.


THEY ARE PORTUGUESE SHIPS!
ALERT OUR MEN!

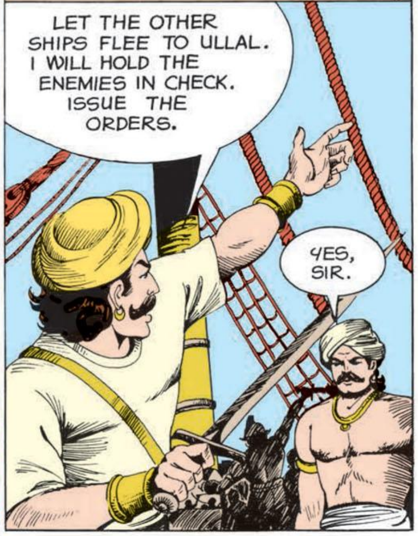
THE PORTUGUESE SAILORS SWUNG ON BOARD THE INDIAN SHIPS.

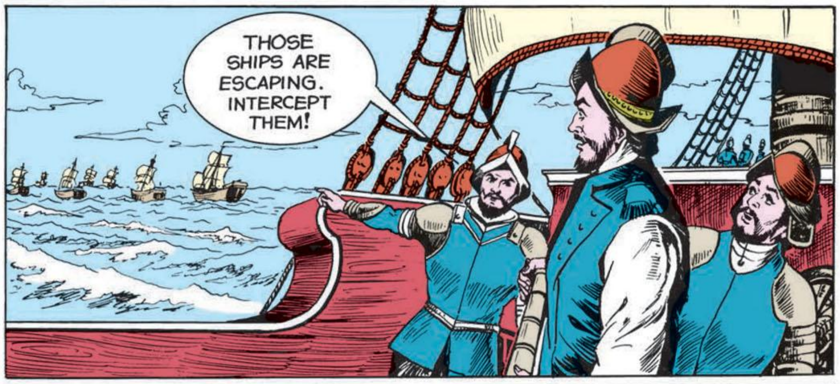


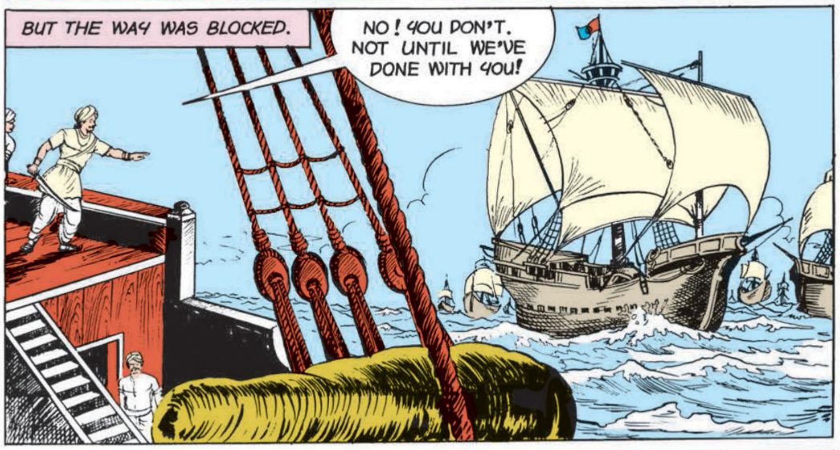
A FIERCE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.

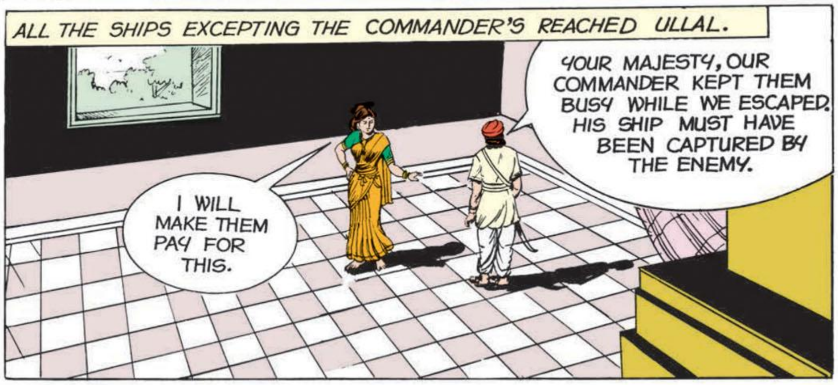


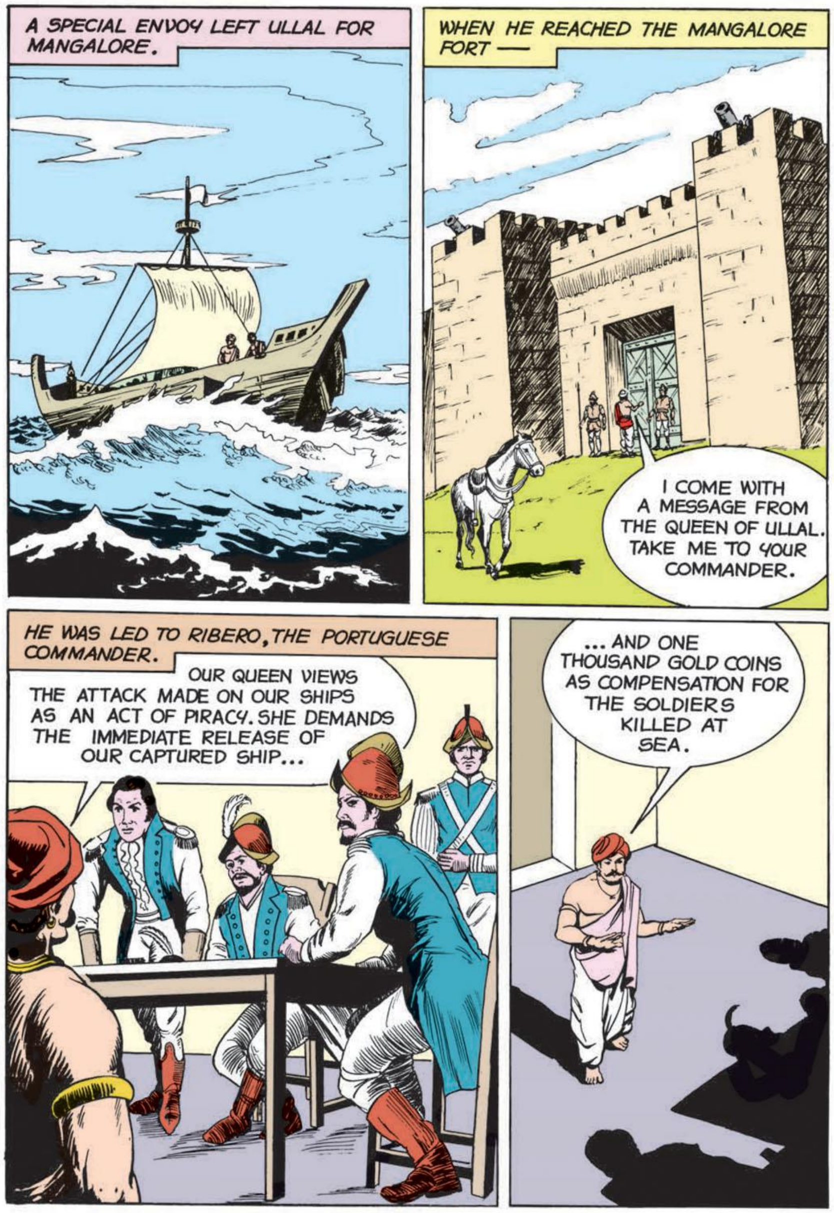
THE LEADER OF ABBAKKA'S FLEET TOOK A QUICK DECISION.

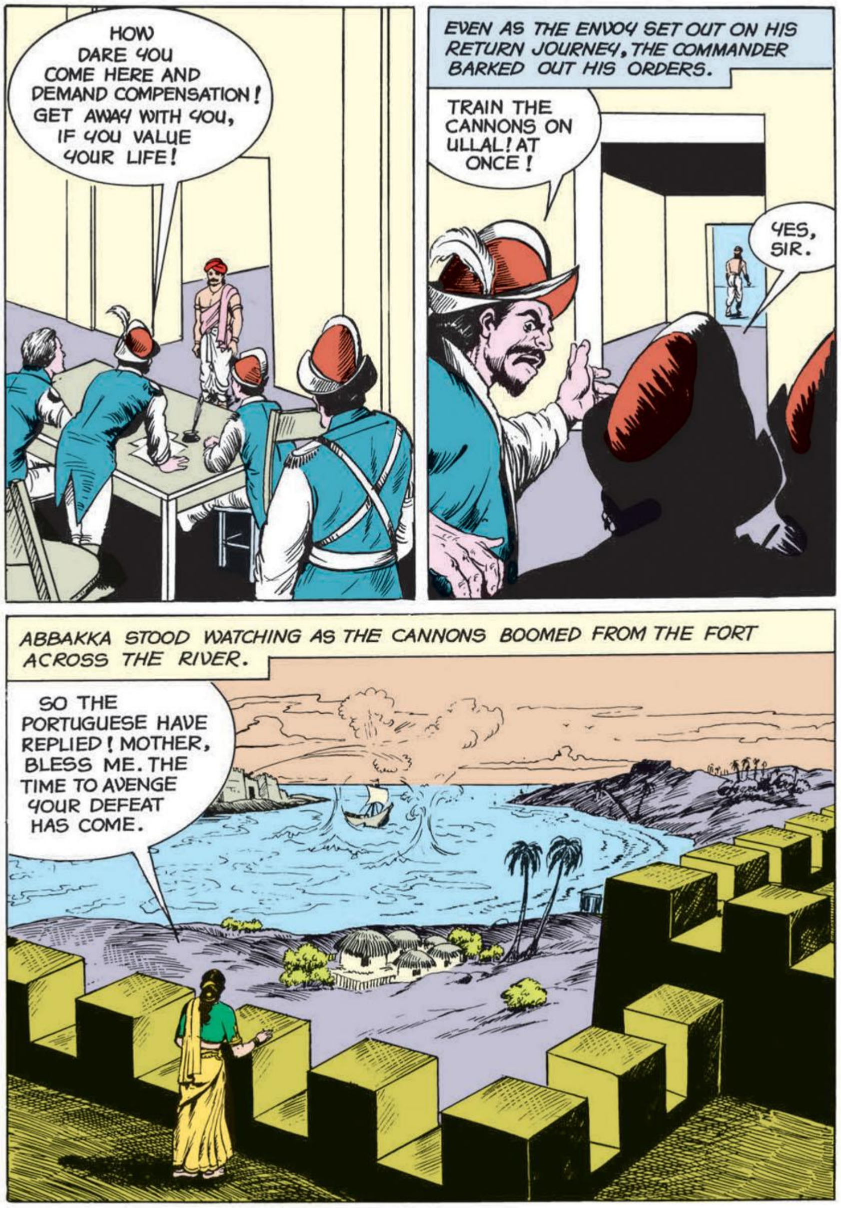

LET THE OTHER SHIPS FLEE TO ULLAL. I WILL HOLD THE ENEMIES IN CHECK. ISSUE THE ORDERS.
YES, SIR.


THOSE SHIPS ARE ESCAPING. INTERCEPT THEM!

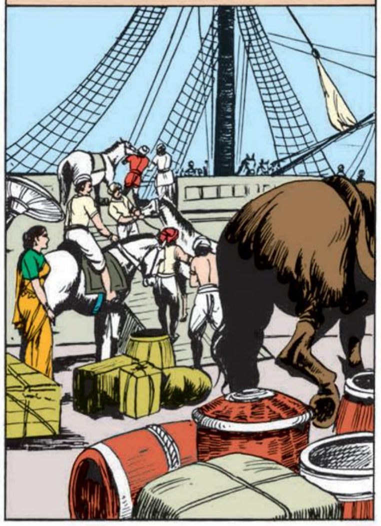

BUT THE WAY WAS BLOCKED.
NO! YOU DON'T. NOT UNTIL WE'VE DONE WITH YOU!


ALL THE SHIPS EXCEPTING THE COMMANDER'S REACHED ULLAL.
YOUR MAJESTY, OUR COMMANDER KEPT THEM BUSY WHILE WE ESCAPED. HIS SHIP MUST HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY.
I WILL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS.

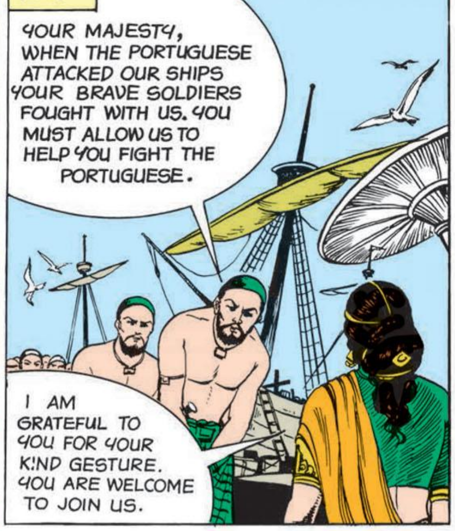

A SPECIAL ENVOY LEFT ULLAL FOR MANGALORE.
WHEN HE REACHED THE MANGALORE FORT —
I COME WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN OF ULLAL. TAKE ME TO YOUR COMMANDER.
HE WAS LED TO RIBERO, THE PORTUGUESE COMMANDER.
OUR QUEEN VIEWS THE ATTACK MADE ON OUR SHIPS AS AN ACT OF PIRACY. SHE DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF OUR CAPTURED SHIP...
... AND ONE THOUSAND GOLD COINS AS COMPENSATION FOR THE SOLDIERS KILLED AT SEA.


HOW DARE YOU COME HERE AND DEMAND COMPENSATION! GET AWAY WITH YOU, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!
EVEN AS THE ENVOY SET OUT ON HIS RETURN JOURNEY, THE COMMANDER BARKED OUT HIS ORDERS.
TRAIN THE CANNONS ON ULLAL! AT ONCE!
YES, SIR.
ABBAKKA STOOD WATCHING AS THE CANNONS BOOMED FROM THE FORT ACROSS THE RIVER.
SO THE PORTUGUESE HAVE REPLIED! MOTHER, BLESS ME. THE TIME TO AVENGE YOUR DEFEAT HAS COME.

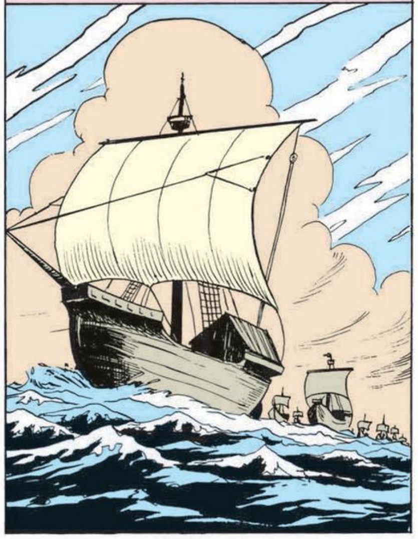
AS THE QUEEN MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MILITARY EXPEDITION AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE...



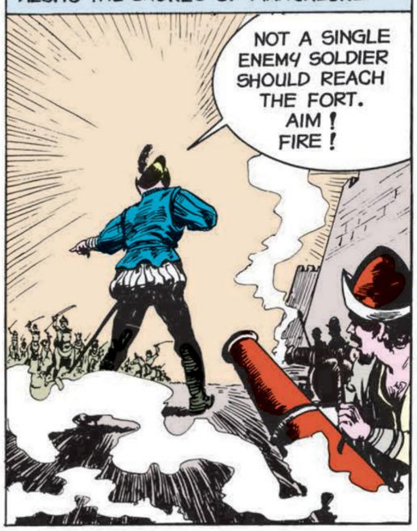
...THE MOPLAH SAILORS WHO HAD NOT YET LEFT ULLAL FOR KOZHIKODE, APPROACHED HER

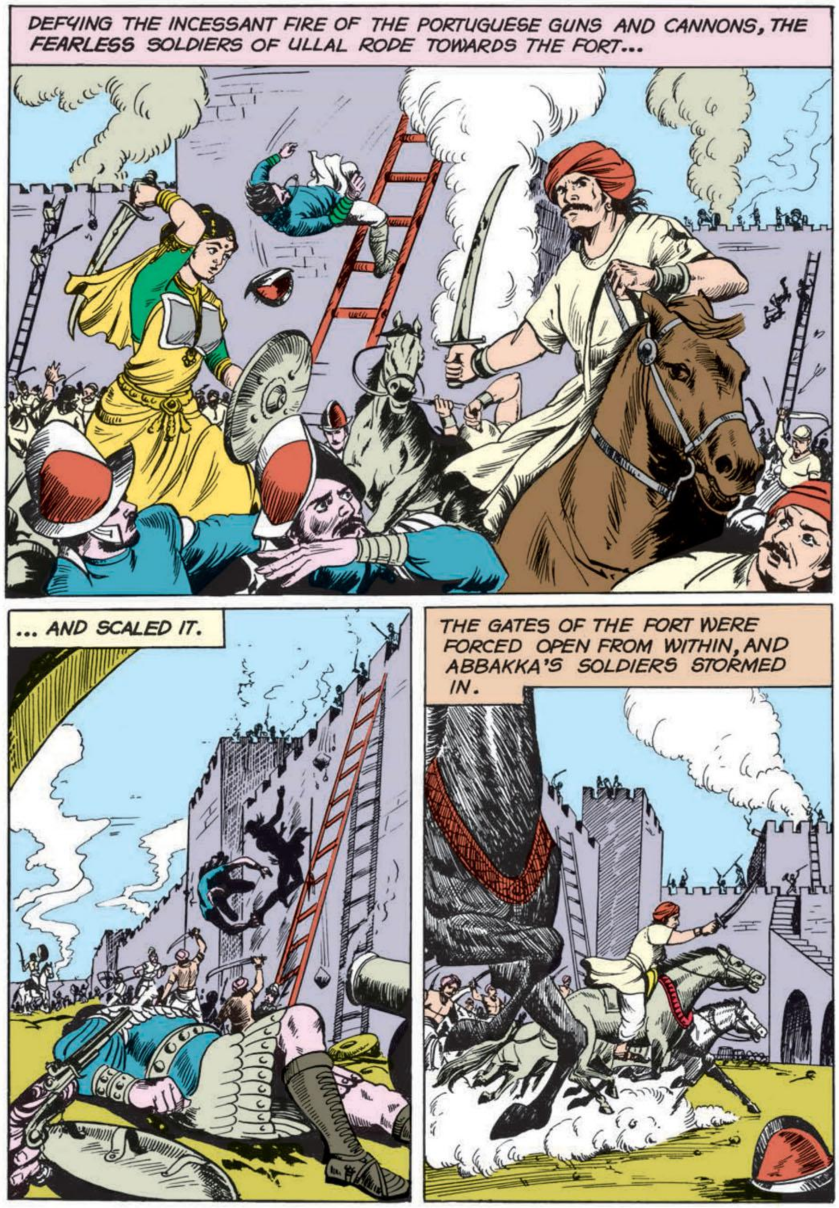

YOUR MAJESTY, WHEN THE PORTUGUESE ATTACKED OUR SHIPS YOUR BRAVE SOLDIERS FOUGHT WITH US. YOU MUST ALLOW US TO HELP YOU FIGHT THE PORTUGUESE.
I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR KIND GESTURE. YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.

THE SOLDIERS OF ULLAL AND THE MOPLAHS SET SAIL FOR MANGALORE.



THE PORTUGUESE SPOTTED THE SOLDIERS OF ULLAL AS THEY ADVANCED ALONG THE SHORES OF MANGALORE.

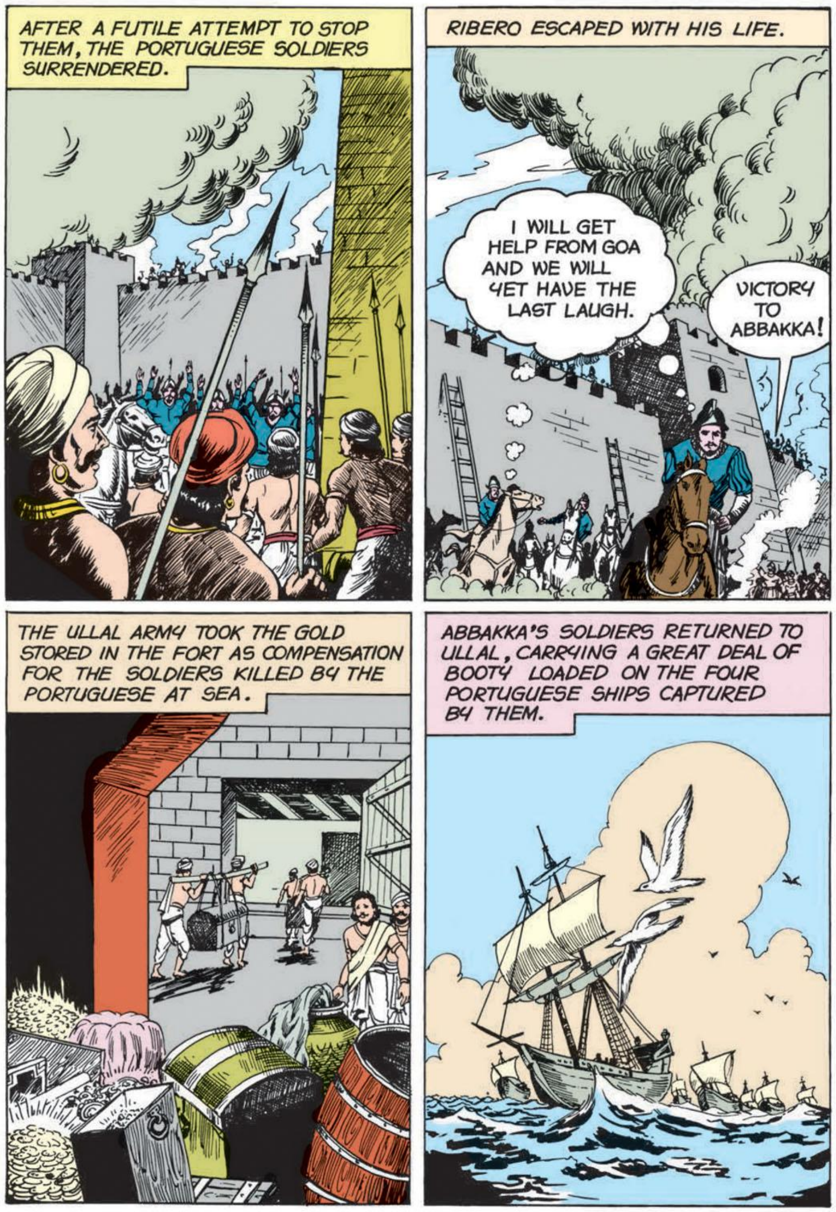

NOT A SINGLE ENEMY SOLDIER SHOULD REACH THE FORT. AIM! FIRE!

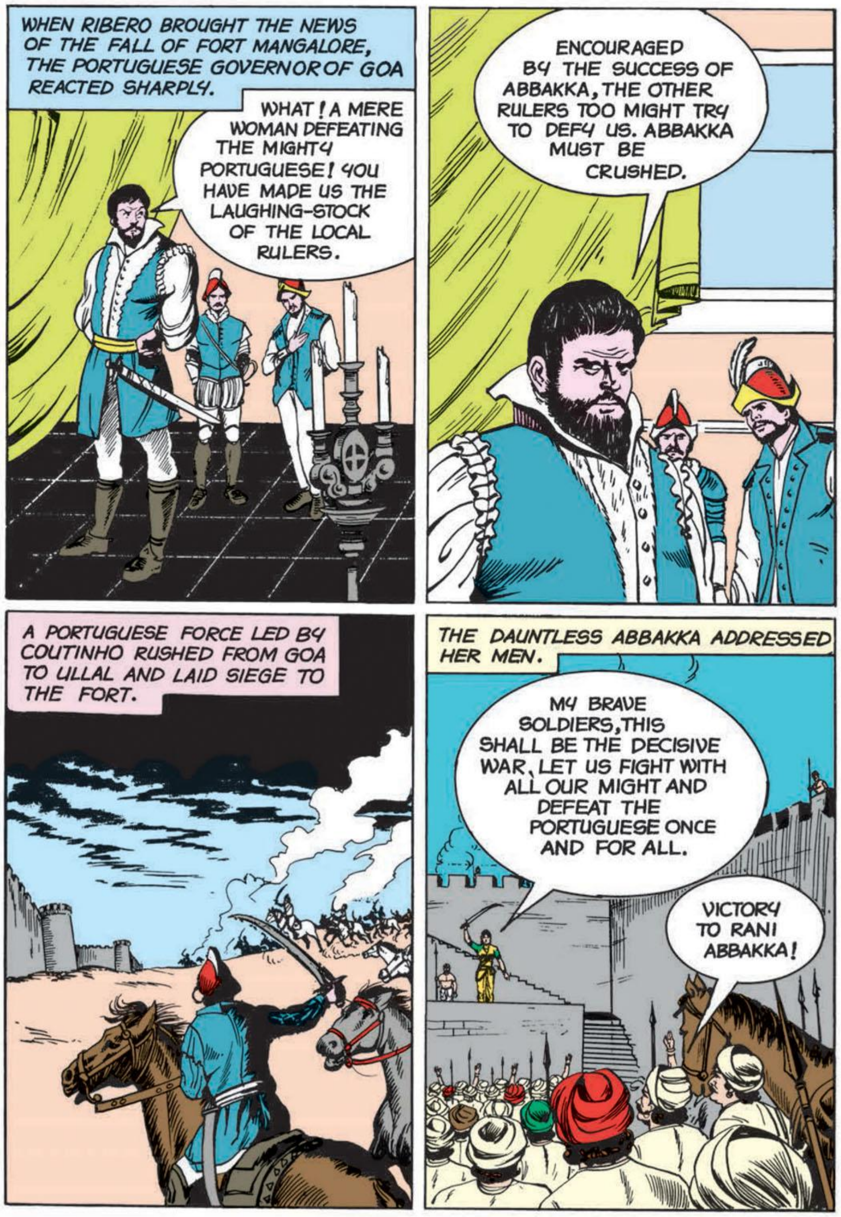


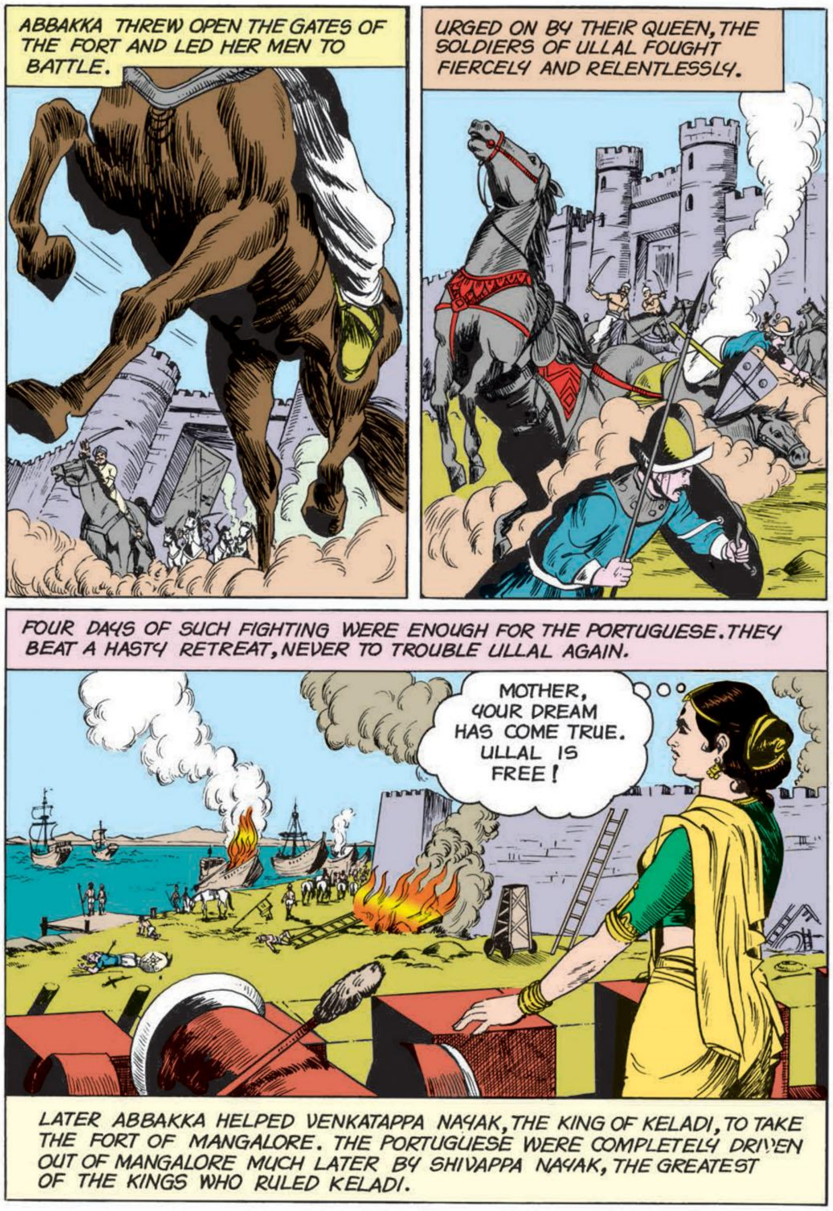
DEFYING THE INCESSANT FIRE OF THE PORTUGUESE GUNS AND CANNONS, THE FEARLESS SOLDIERS OF ULLAL RODE TOWARDS THE FORT...

... AND SCALED IT.

THE GATES OF THE FORT WERE FORCED OPEN FROM WITHIN, AND ABBAKKA'S SOLDIERS STORMED IN.


AFTER A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO STOP THEM, THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS SURRENDERED.
RIBERO ESCAPED WITH HIS LIFE.
I WILL GET HELP FROM GOA AND WE WILL YET HAVE THE LAST LAUGH.
VICTORY TO ABBAKKA!
THE ULLAL ARMY TOOK THE GOLD STORED IN THE FORT AS COMPENSATION FOR THE SOLDIERS KILLED BY THE PORTUGUESE AT SEA.
ABBAKKA'S SOLDIERS RETURNED TO ULLAL, CARRYING A GREAT DEAL OF BOOTY LOADED ON THE FOUR PORTUGUESE SHIPS CAPTURED BY THEM.


WHEN RIBERO BROUGHT THE NEWS OF THE FALL OF FORT MANGALORE, THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNOR OF GOA REACTED SHARPLY.
WHAT! A MERE WOMAN DEFEATING THE MIGHTY PORTUGUESE! YOU HAVE MADE US THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE LOCAL RULERS.
ENCOURAGED BY THE SUCCESS OF ABBAKKA, THE OTHER RULERS TOO MIGHT TRY TO DEFY US. ABBAKKA MUST BE CRUSHED.
A PORTUGUESE FORCE LED BY COUTINHO RUSHED FROM GOA TO ULLAL AND LAID SIEGE TO THE FORT.
THE DAUNTLESS ABBAKKA ADDRESSED HER MEN.
MY BRAVE SOLDIERS, THIS SHALL BE THE DECISIVE WAR, LET US FIGHT WITH ALL OUR MIGHT AND DEFEAT THE PORTUGUESE ONCE AND FOR ALL.
VICTORY TO RANI ABBAKKA!



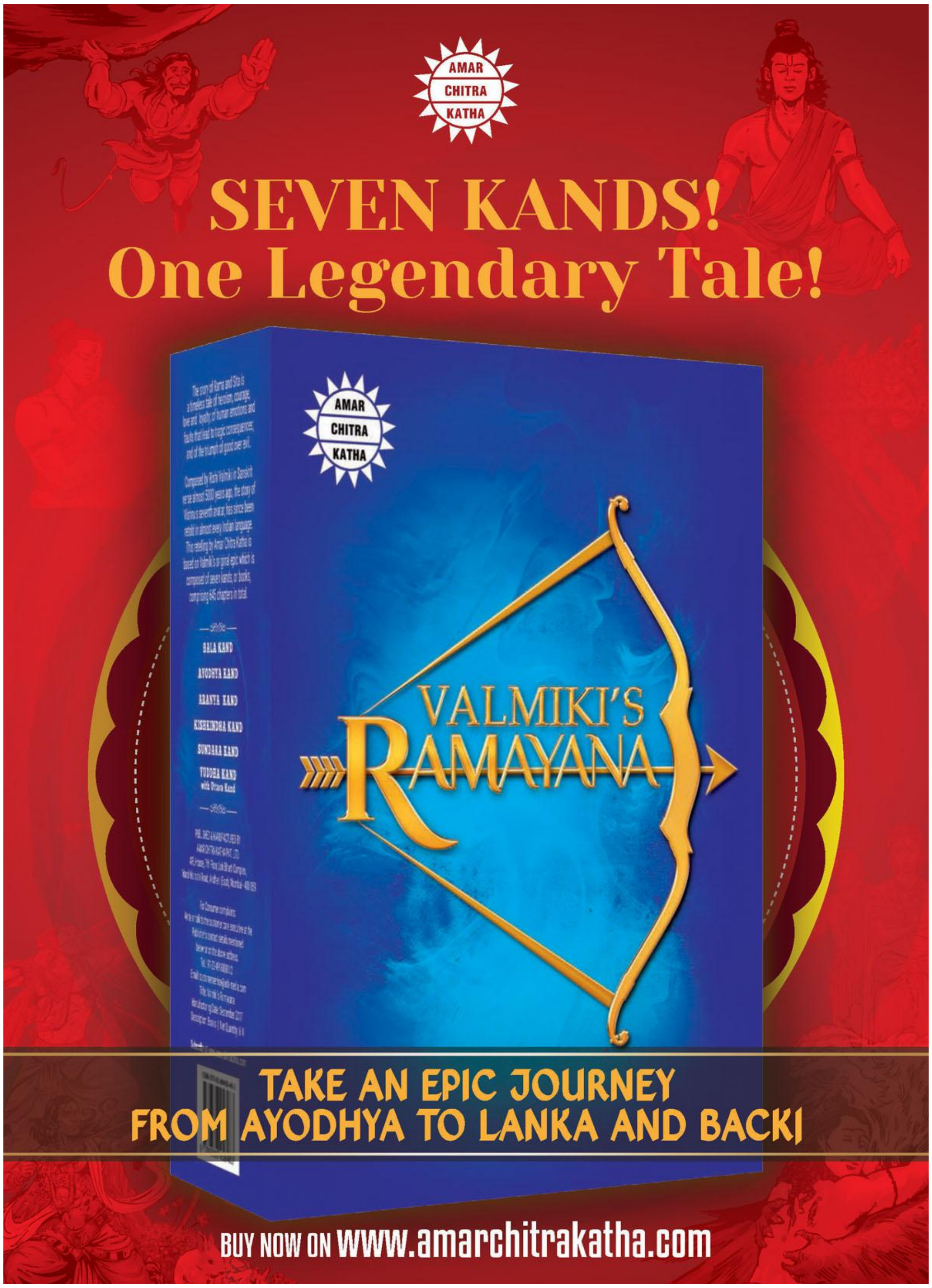
ABBAKKA THREW OPEN THE GATES OF THE FORT AND LED HER MEN TO BATTLE.

URGED ON BY THEIR QUEEN, THE SOLDIERS OF ULLAL FOUGHT FIERCELY AND RELENTLESSLY.

FOUR DAYS OF SUCH FIGHTING WERE ENOUGH FOR THE PORTUGUESE. THEY BEAT A HASTY RETREAT, NEVER TO TROUBLE ULLAL AGAIN.

MOTHER, YOUR DREAM HAS COME TRUE. ULLAL IS FREE!

LATER ABBAKKA HELPED VENKATAPPA NAYAK, THE KING OF KELADI, TO TAKE THE FORT OF MANGALORE. THE PORTUGUESE WERE COMPLETELY DRIVEN OUT OF MANGALORE MUCH LATER BY SHIVAPPA NAYAK, THE GREATEST OF THE KINGS WHO RULED KELADI.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# Warrior Kings

The son of a chieftain, Shivaji single-handedly built the great Maratha empire, fort by fort. He stood steadfast against the might of the Mughal empire, while battling hostile kings across the Deccan plateau. He is still remembered not only as a great strategist but also as a chivalrous and just ruler.

Tipu Sultan spent his life fighting to save his kingdom of Mysore from the British. He also defeated the Marathas and the Nizams, when they attacked. He died, sword in hand, defending his fort, of Srirangapattana, from the British army.

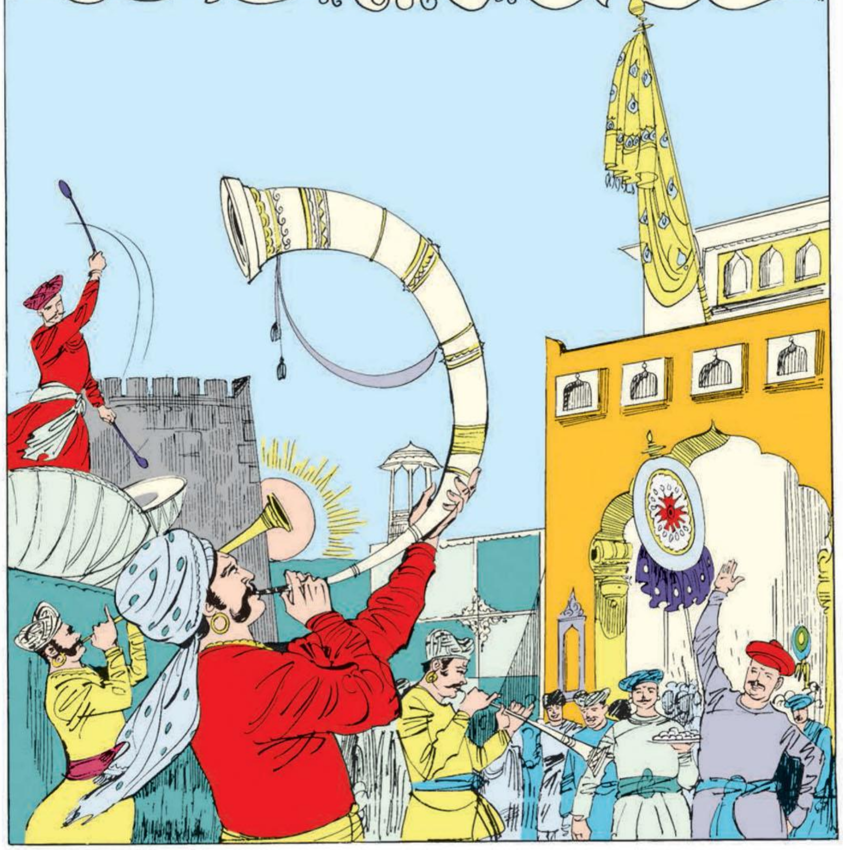
Though the Mughals had taken over the kingdom of Chittor, its king, Rana Pratap did not give up. He ruled his people even as he fled from the Mughal armies, and fought ceaselessly to protect his people and their land. He died as he lived, fighting to the last.

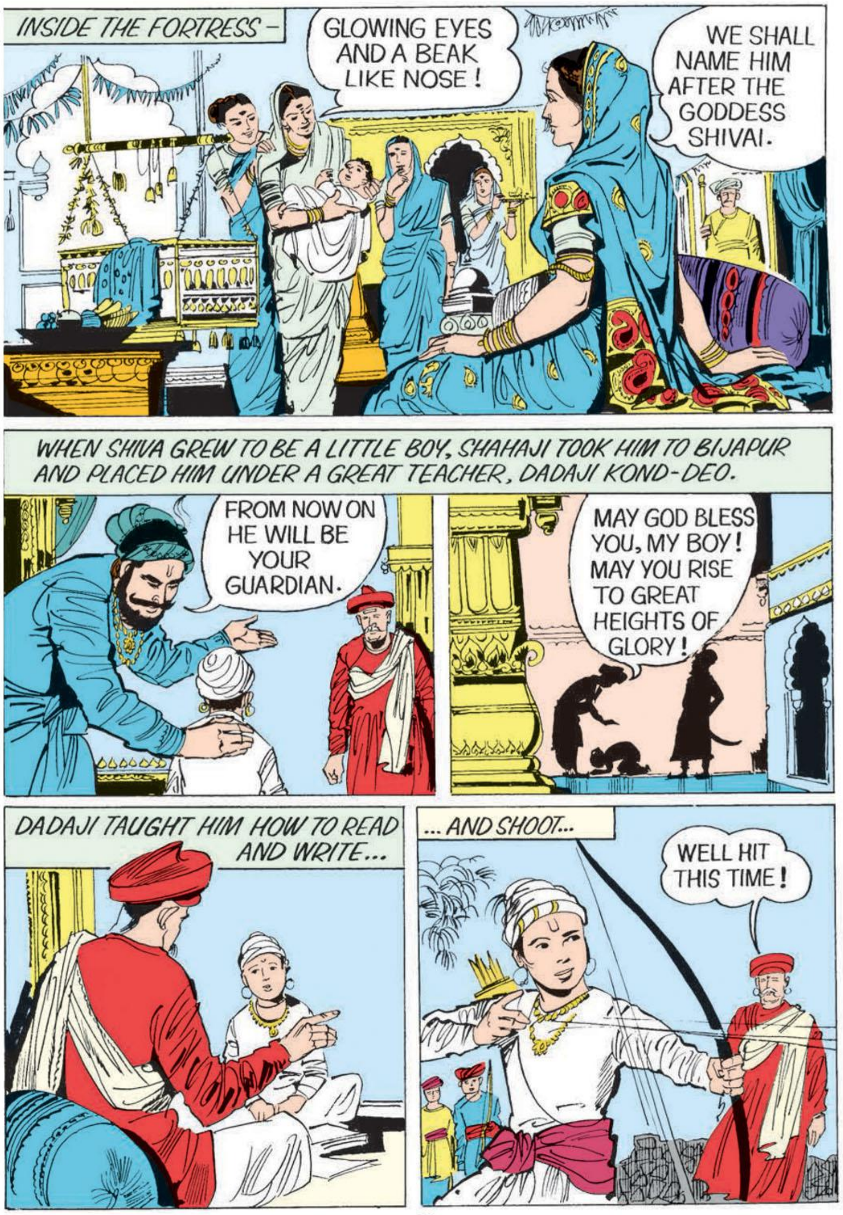
This collection brings together some of the most cunning strategists and dashing fighters from Indian history.

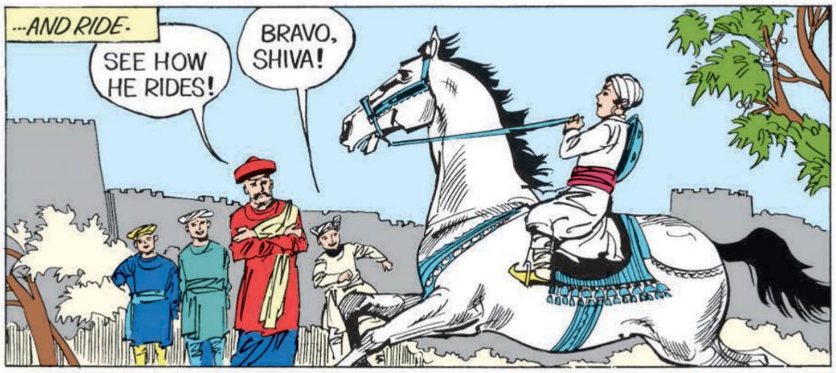
WARRIOR KINGS

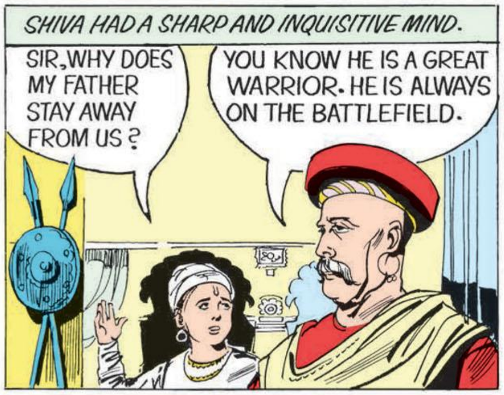
# SHIVAJI

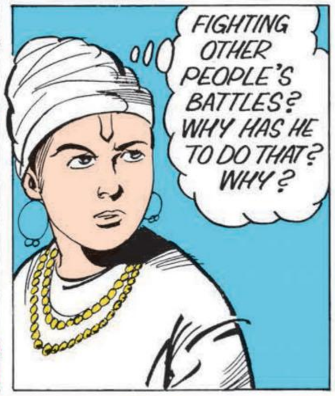
IT WAS THE 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR 1630. THE SUN WAS ABOUT TO SET, WHEN THE DRUMS IN THE FORTRESS OF SHIVNERI, IN MAHARASHTRA, PROCLAIMED THE NEWS THAT A SON WAS BORN TO JIJABAI. HER HUSBAND SHAHAJI WAS AWAY, FIGHTING BATTLES FOR THE SULTAN OF BIJAPUR. FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS THE MARATHAS HAD BEEN UNDER THE SUPPRESSION OF FOREIGN RULERS. AT THE TIME OF SHIVAJI'S BIRTH, BESIDES THE SULTAN, THERE WAS THE GREAT MUGHAL EMPEROR OF DELHI AND THE ABYSSINIAN GENERAL FROM BIJAPUR, THE SIDDHI JOHAR.

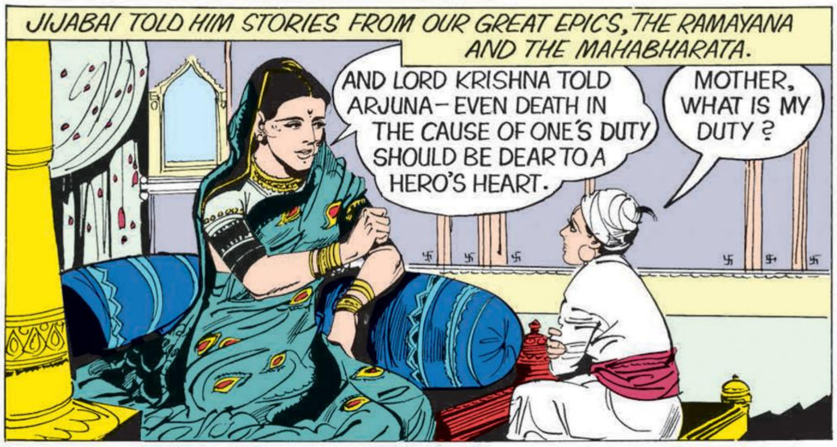


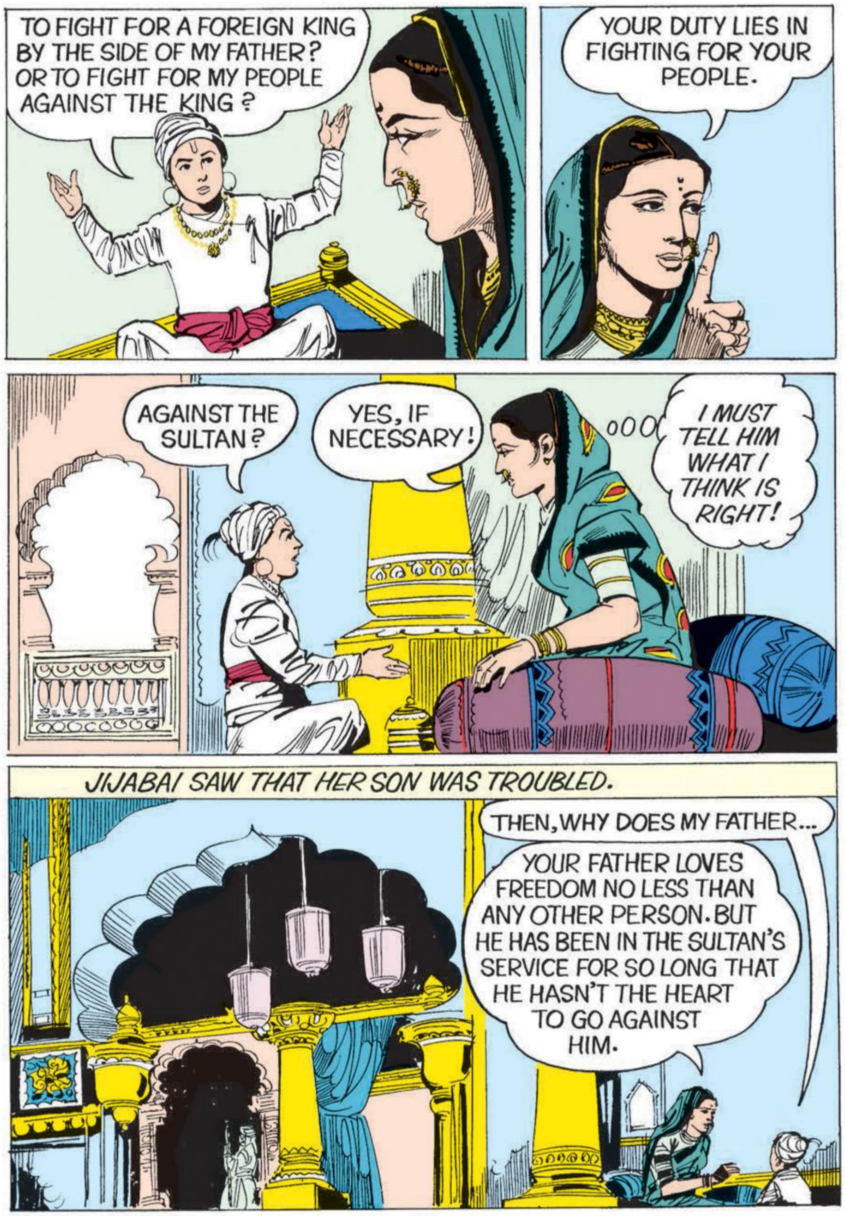

INSIDE THE FORTRESS –
GLOWING EYES AND A BEAK LIKE NOSE !
WE SHALL NAME HIM AFTER THE GODDESS SHIVAI.
WHEN SHIVA GREW TO BE A LITTLE BOY, SHAHAJI TOOK HIM TO BIJAPUR AND PLACED HIM UNDER A GREAT TEACHER, DADAJI KOND-DEO.
FROM NOW ON HE WILL BE YOUR GUARDIAN.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, MY BOY ! MAY YOU RISE TO GREAT HEIGHTS OF GLORY !
DADAJI TAUGHT HIM HOW TO READ AND WRITE...
... AND SHOOT...
WELL HIT THIS TIME !

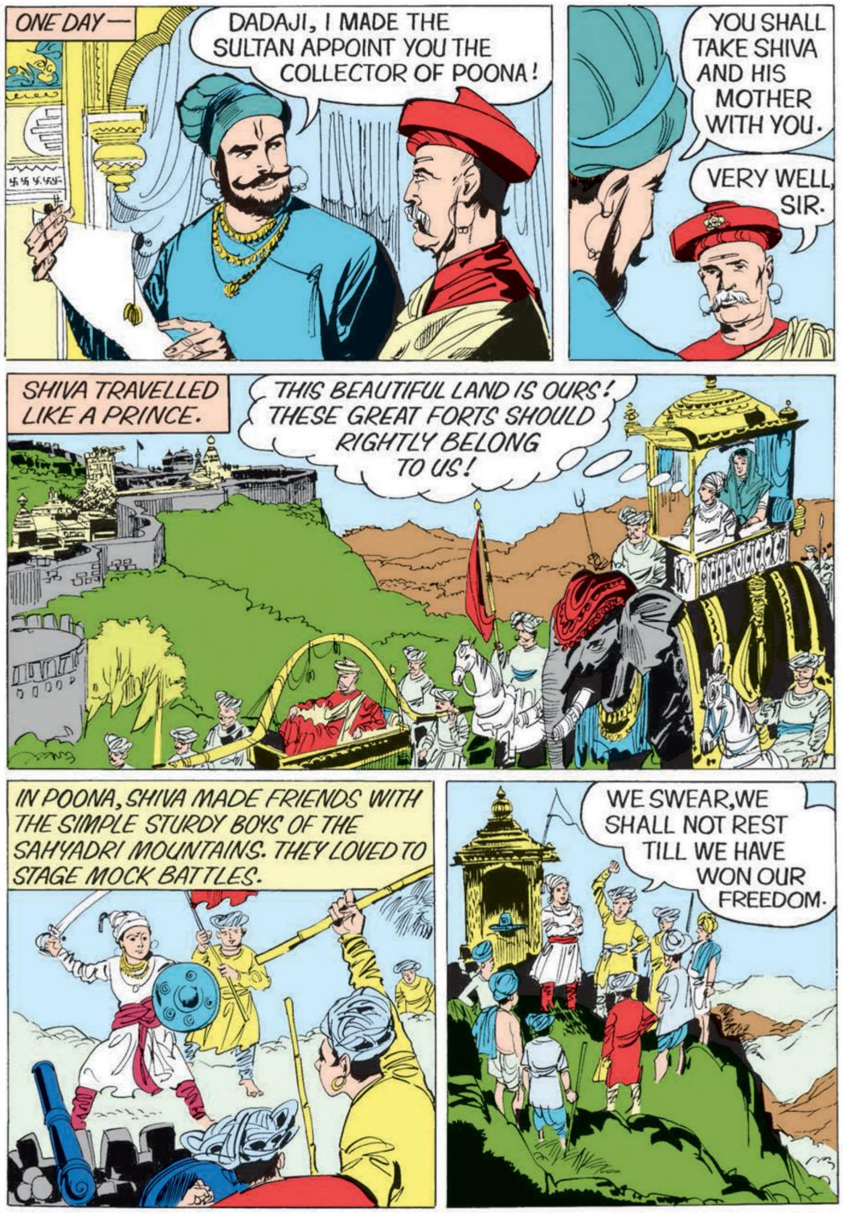

...AND RIDE.
SEE HOW HE RIDES!
BRAVO, SHIVA!


SHIVA HAD A SHARP AND INQUISITIVE MIND.
SIR, WHY DOES MY FATHER STAY AWAY FROM US ?
YOU KNOW HE IS A GREAT WARRIOR. HE IS ALWAYS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

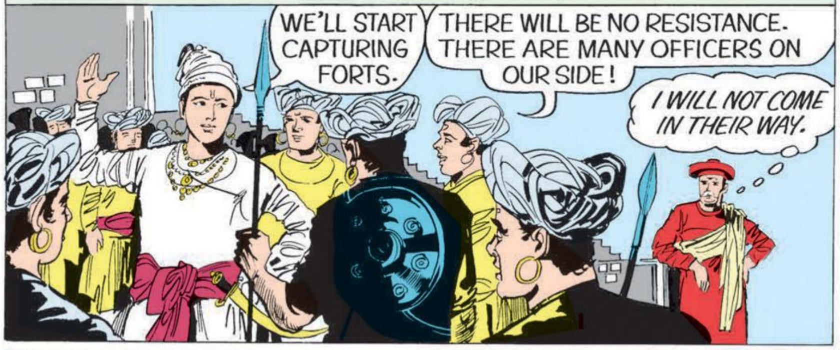

FIGHTING OTHER PEOPLE'S BATTLES? WHY HAS HE TO DO THAT? WHY?


JIJABAI TOLD HIM STORIES FROM OUR GREAT EPICS, THE RAMAYANA AND THE MAHABHARATA.
AND LORD KRISHNA TOLD ARJUNA– EVEN DEATH IN THE CAUSE OF ONE'S DUTY SHOULD BE DEAR TO A HERO'S HEART.
MOTHER, WHAT IS MY DUTY ?

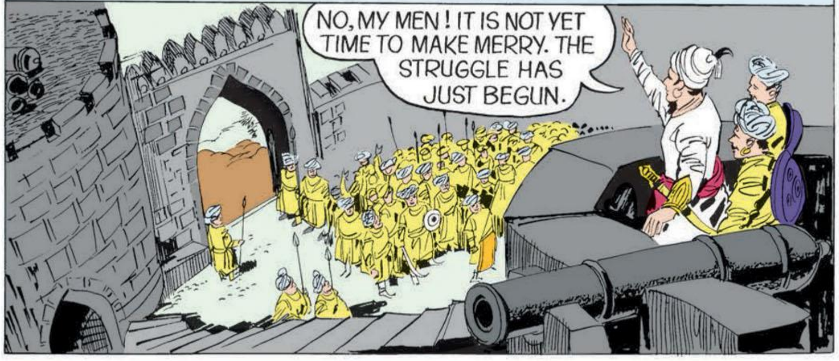

TO FIGHT FOR A FOREIGN KING BY THE SIDE OF MY FATHER? OR TO FIGHT FOR MY PEOPLE AGAINST THE KING?
YOUR DUTY LIES IN FIGHTING FOR YOUR PEOPLE.
AGAINST THE SULTAN?
YES, IF NECESSARY!
I MUST TELL HIM WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT!
JIJABAI SAW THAT HER SON WAS TROUBLED.
THEN, WHY DOES MY FATHER...
YOUR FATHER LOVES FREEDOM NO LESS THAN ANY OTHER PERSON. BUT HE HAS BEEN IN THE SULTAN'S SERVICE FOR SO LONG THAT HE HASN'T THE HEART TO GO AGAINST HIM.


ONE DAY —
DADAJI, I MADE THE SULTAN APPOINT YOU THE COLLECTOR OF POONA!
YOU SHALL TAKE SHIVA AND HIS MOTHER WITH YOU.
VERY WELL, SIR.
SHIVA TRAVELLED LIKE A PRINCE.
THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND IS OURS! THESE GREAT FORTS SHOULD RIGHTLY BELONG TO US!
IN POONA, SHIVA MADE FRIENDS WITH THE SIMPLE STURDY BOYS OF THE SAHYADRI MOUNTAINS. THEY LOVED TO STAGE MOCK BATTLES.
WE SWEAR, WE SHALL NOT REST TILL WE HAVE WON OUR FREEDOM.

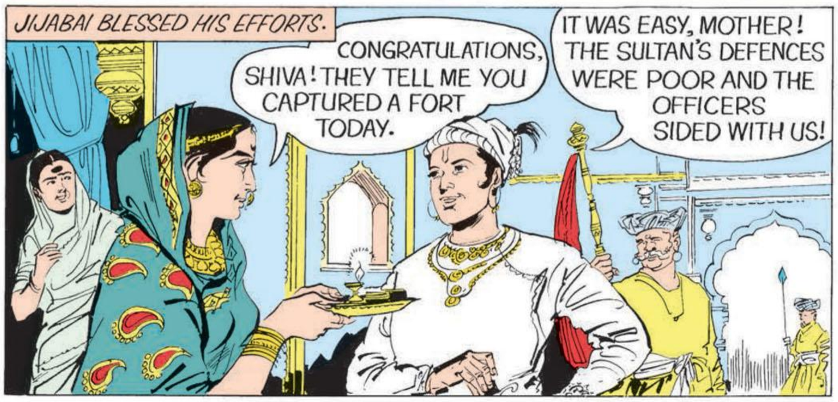
THOUGH APPOINTED TO COLLECT REVENUE, DADAJI BECAME THE VIRTUAL RULER OF POONA. RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE, SHIVA MADE BOLD PLANS.

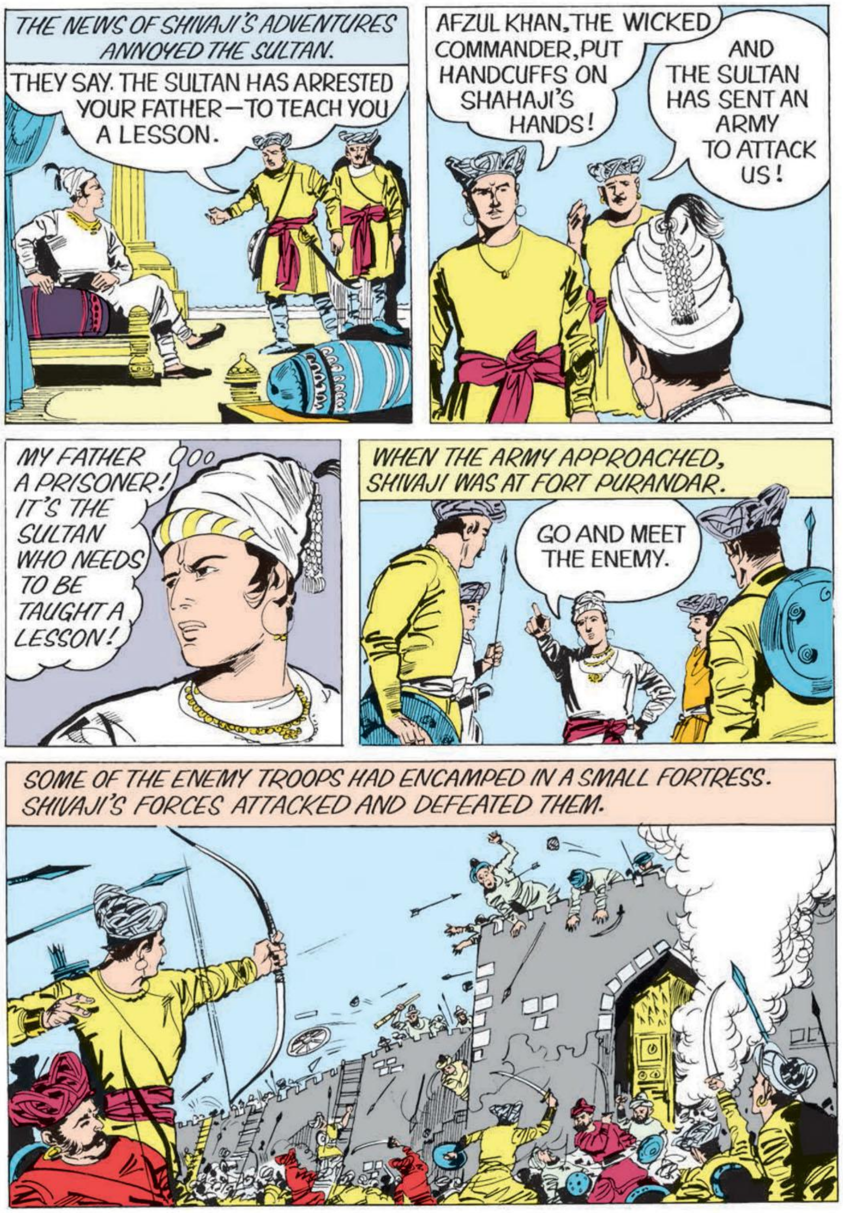

WE'LL START CAPTURING FORTS.
THERE WILL BE NO RESISTANCE. THERE ARE MANY OFFICERS ON OUR SIDE!
I WILL NOT COME IN THEIR WAY.

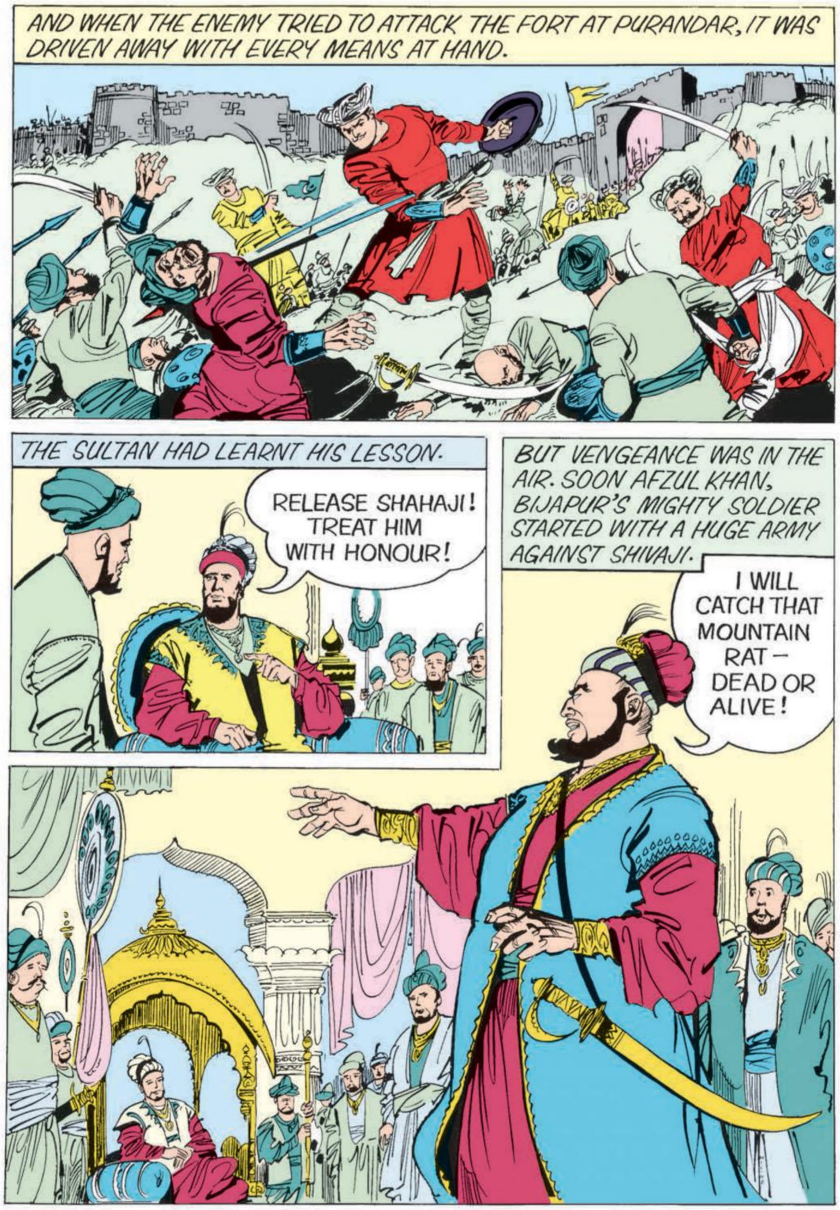
THE FIRST IMPORTANT FORT SHIVAJI CONQUERED WAS TORNA.


NO, MY MEN! IT IS NOT YET TIME TO MAKE MERRY. THE STRUGGLE HAS JUST BEGUN.

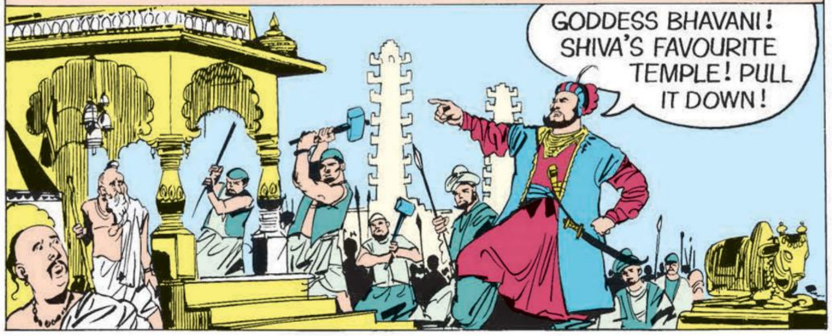
JIJABAI BLESSED HIS EFFORTS.


CONGRATULATIONS, SHIVA! THEY TELL ME YOU CAPTURED A FORT TODAY.
IT WAS EASY, MOTHER! THE SULTAN'S DEFENCES WERE POOR AND THE OFFICERS SIDED WITH US!

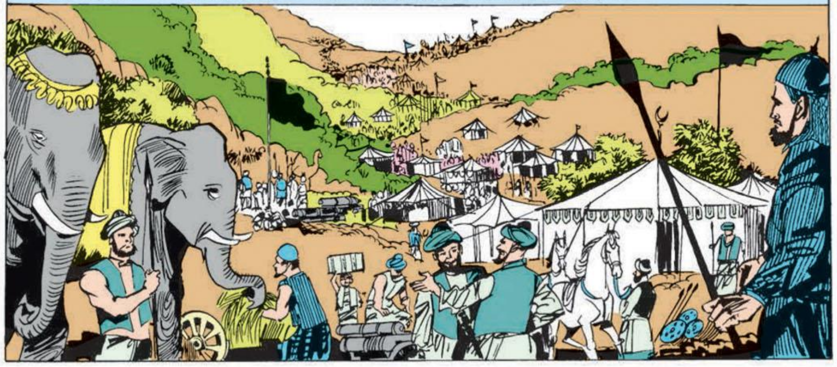

THE NEWS OF SHIVAJI'S ADVENTURES ANNOYED THE SULTAN.
THEY SAY. THE SULTAN HAS ARRESTED YOUR FATHER — TO TEACH YOU A LESSON.
AFZUL KHAN, THE WICKED COMMANDER, PUT HANDCUFFS ON SHAHAJI'S HANDS!
AND THE SULTAN HAS SENT AN ARMY TO ATTACK US!
MY FATHER A PRISONER! IT'S THE SULTAN WHO NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!
WHEN THE ARMY APPROACHED, SHIVAJI WAS AT FORT PURANDAR.
GO AND MEET THE ENEMY.
SOME OF THE ENEMY TROOPS HAD ENCAMPED IN A SMALL FORTRESS. SHIVAJI'S FORCES ATTACKED AND DEFEATED THEM.


AND WHEN THE ENEMY TRIED TO ATTACK THE FORT AT PURANDAR, IT WAS DRIVEN AWAY WITH EVERY MEANS AT HAND.
THE SULTAN HAD LEARNT HIS LESSON.
RELEASE SHAHAJI! TREAT HIM WITH HONOUR!
BUT VENGEANCE WAS IN THE AIR. SOON AFZUL KHAN, BIJAPUR'S MIGHTY SOLDIER STARTED WITH A HUGE ARMY AGAINST SHIVAJI.
I WILL CATCH THAT MOUNTAIN RAT – DEAD OR ALIVE!

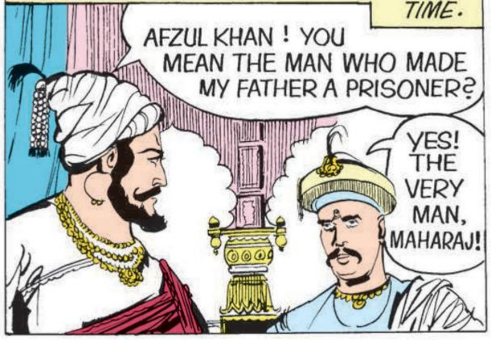
HE SWOOPED ON TOWNS AND VILLAGES SPREADING TERROR AND RUIN.


GODDESS BHAVANI! SHIVA'S FAVOURITE TEMPLE! PULL IT DOWN!

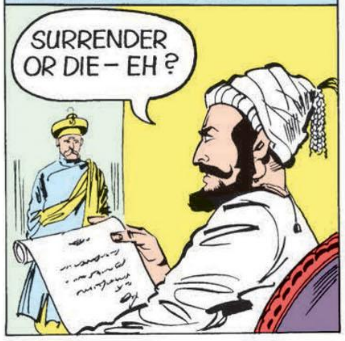
AFZUL KHAN'S ARMY THEN CAMPED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS DISTRICT OF WAI, AND PLUNDERED THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES.

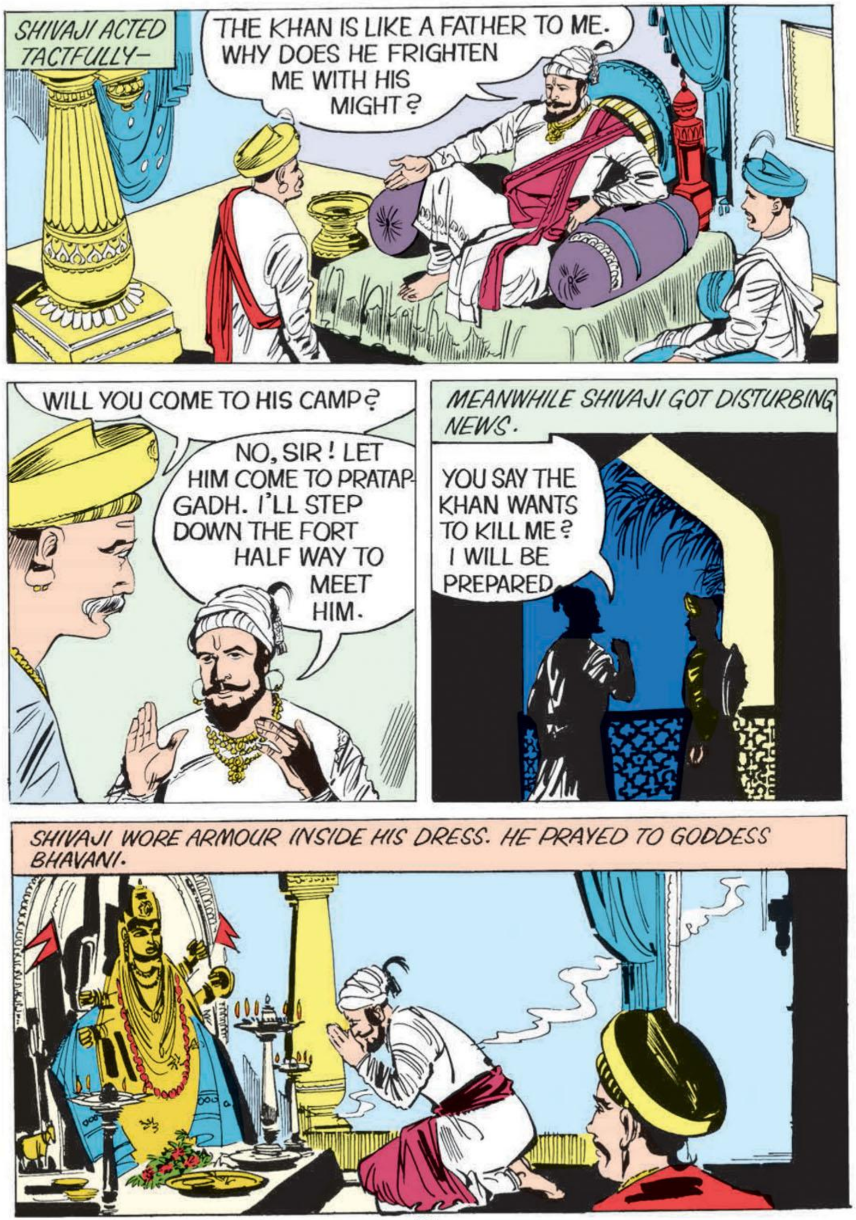


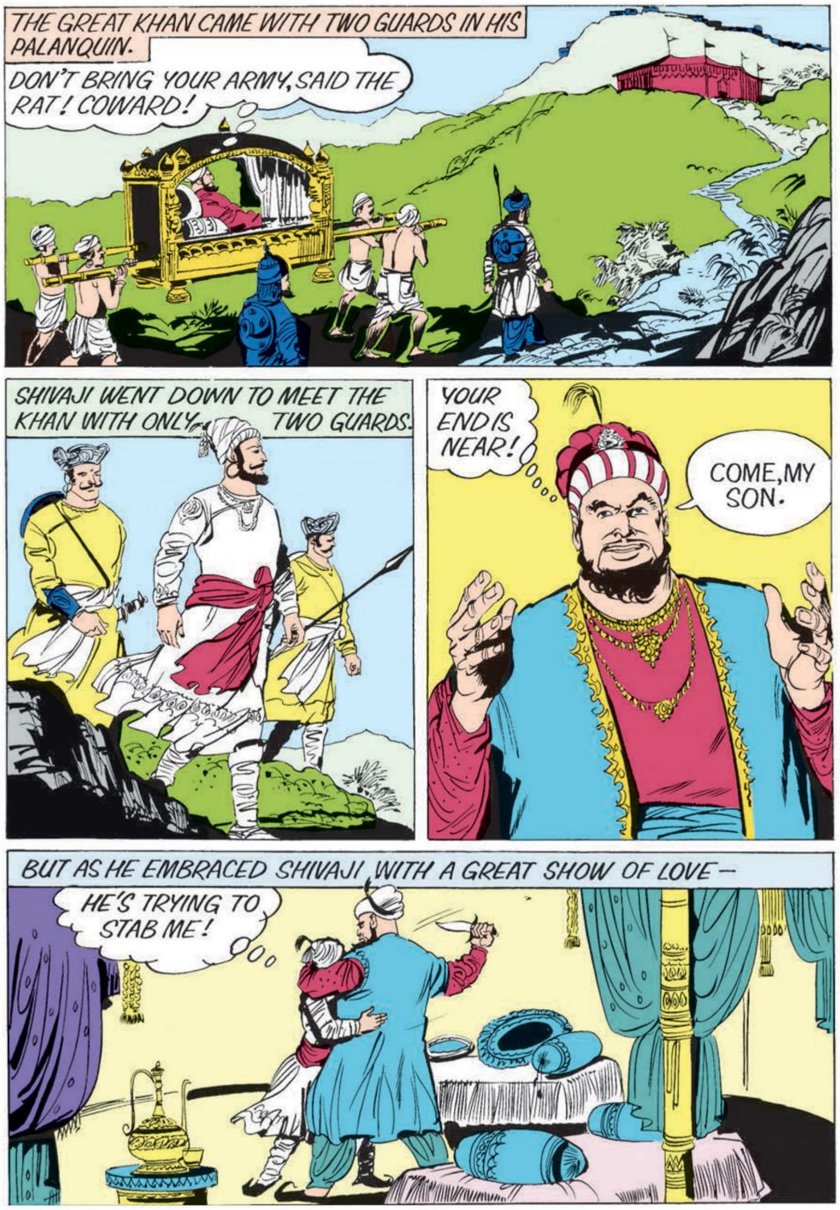
IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF WAI WAS PRATAPGADH WHERE SHIVAJI WAS STATIONED AT THE TIME.

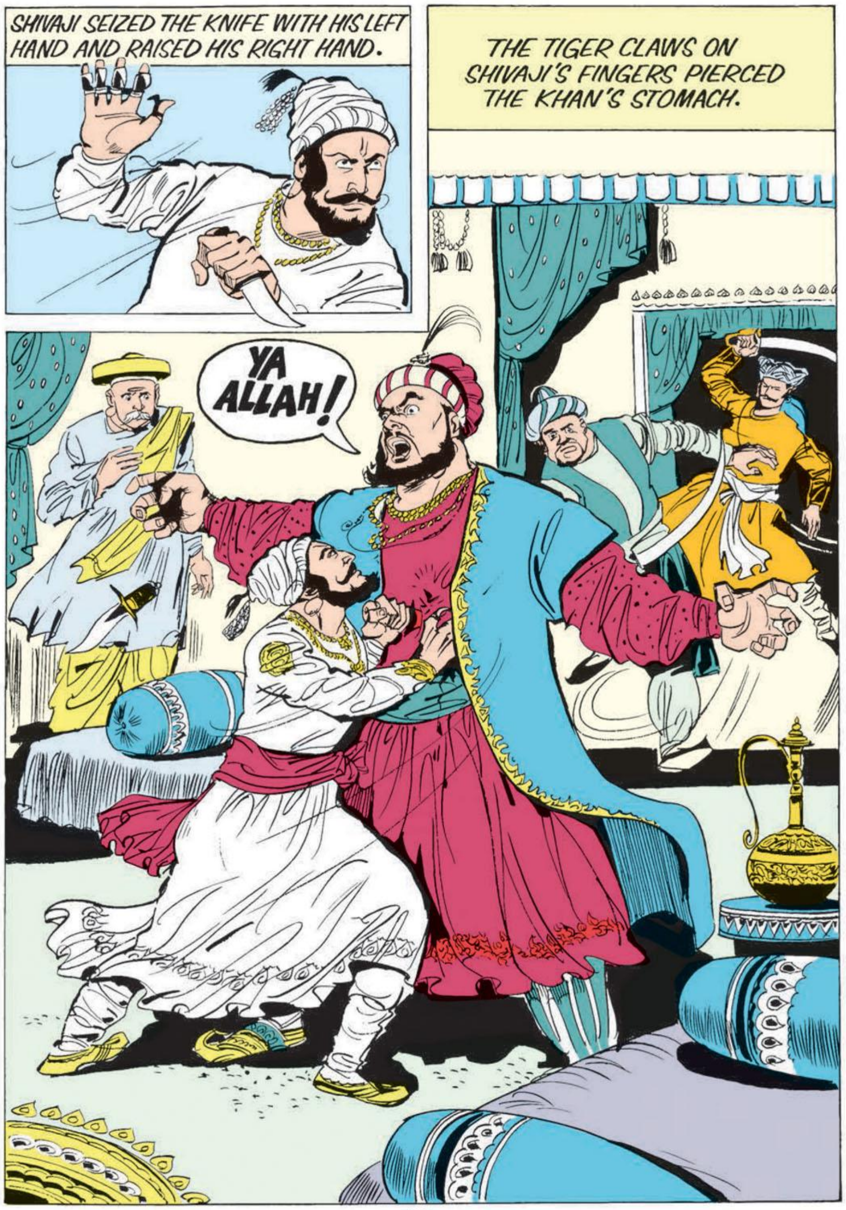

AFZUL KHAN! YOU MEAN THE MAN WHO MADE MY FATHER A PRISONER?
YES! THE VERY MAN, MAHARAJ!

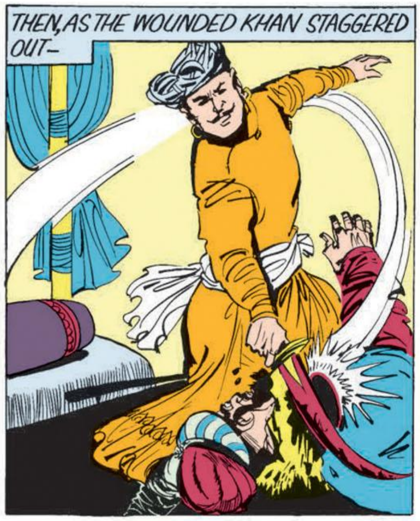
SOON AN ENVOY FROM AFZUL KHAN ARRIVED.

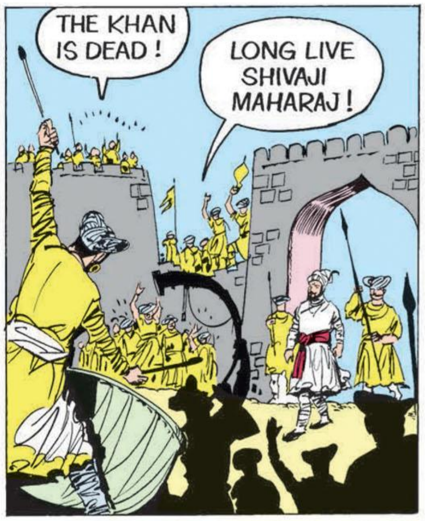

SURRENDER OR DIE – EH?

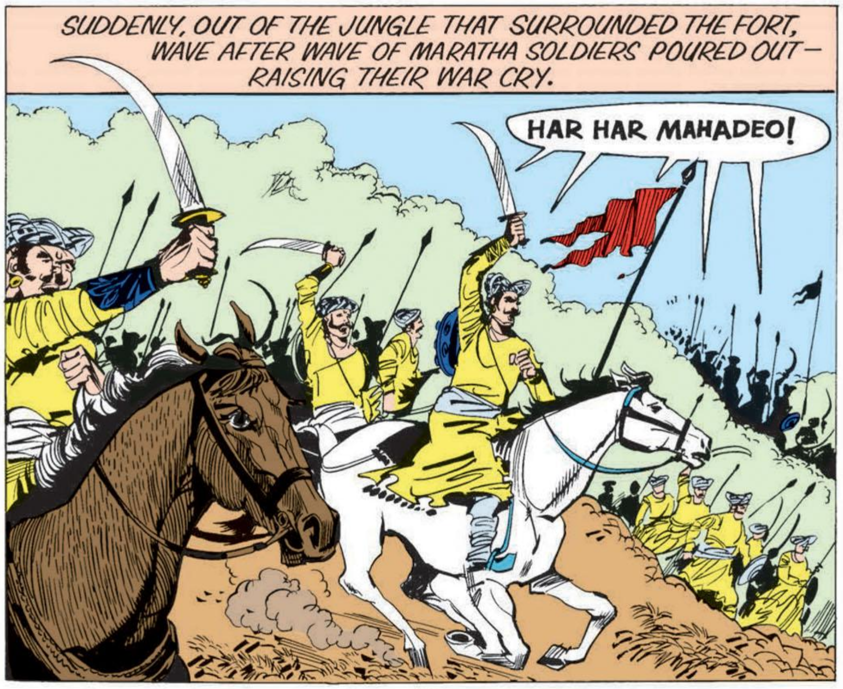

SHIVAJI ACTED TACTFULLY—
THE KHAN IS LIKE A FATHER TO ME. WHY DOES HE FRIGHTEN ME WITH HIS MIGHT?
WILL YOU COME TO HIS CAMP?
NO, SIR! LET HIM COME TO PRATAPGADH. I'LL STEP DOWN THE FORT HALF WAY TO MEET HIM.
MEANWHILE SHIVAJI GOT DISTURBING NEWS.
YOU SAY THE KHAN WANTS TO KILL ME? I WILL BE PREPARED.
SHIVAJI WORE ARMOUR INSIDE HIS DRESS. HE PRAYED TO GODDESS BHAVANI.

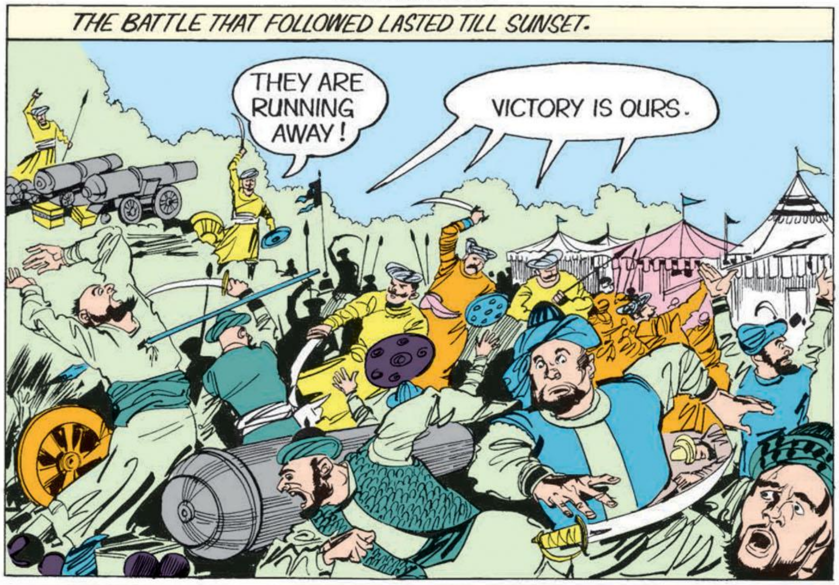

THE GREAT KHAN CAME WITH TWO GUARDS IN HIS PALANQUIN.
DON'T BRING YOUR ARMY, SAID THE RAT! COWARD!
SHIVAJI WENT DOWN TO MEET THE KHAN WITH ONLY TWO GUARDS.
YOUR END IS NEAR!
COME, MY SON.
BUT AS HE EMBRACED SHIVAJI, WITH A GREAT SHOW OF LOVE—
HE'S TRYING TO STAB ME!

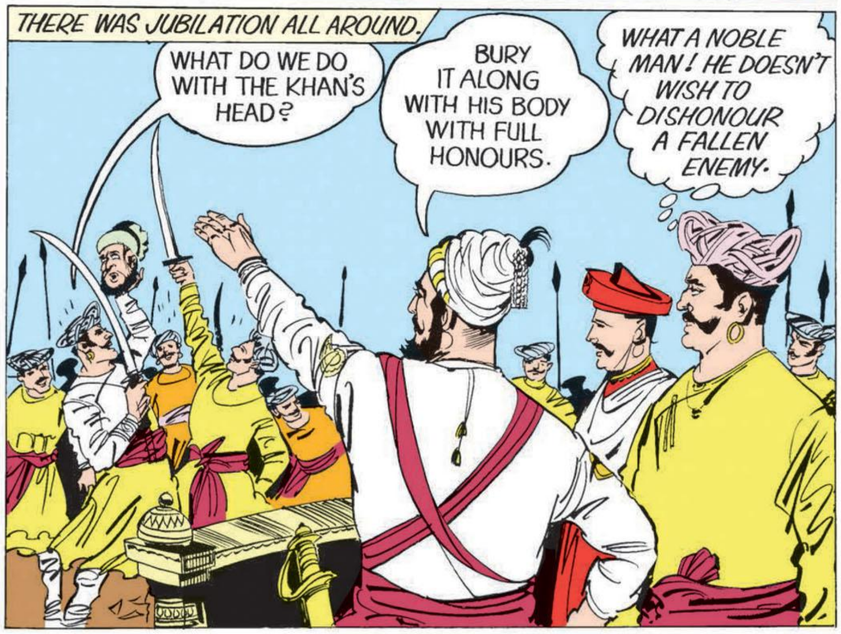

SHIVAJI SEIZED THE KNIFE WITH HIS LEFT HAND AND RAISED HIS RIGHT HAND.
THE TIGER CLAWS ON SHIVAJI'S FINGERS PIERCED THE KHAN'S STOMACH.
YA ALLAH!

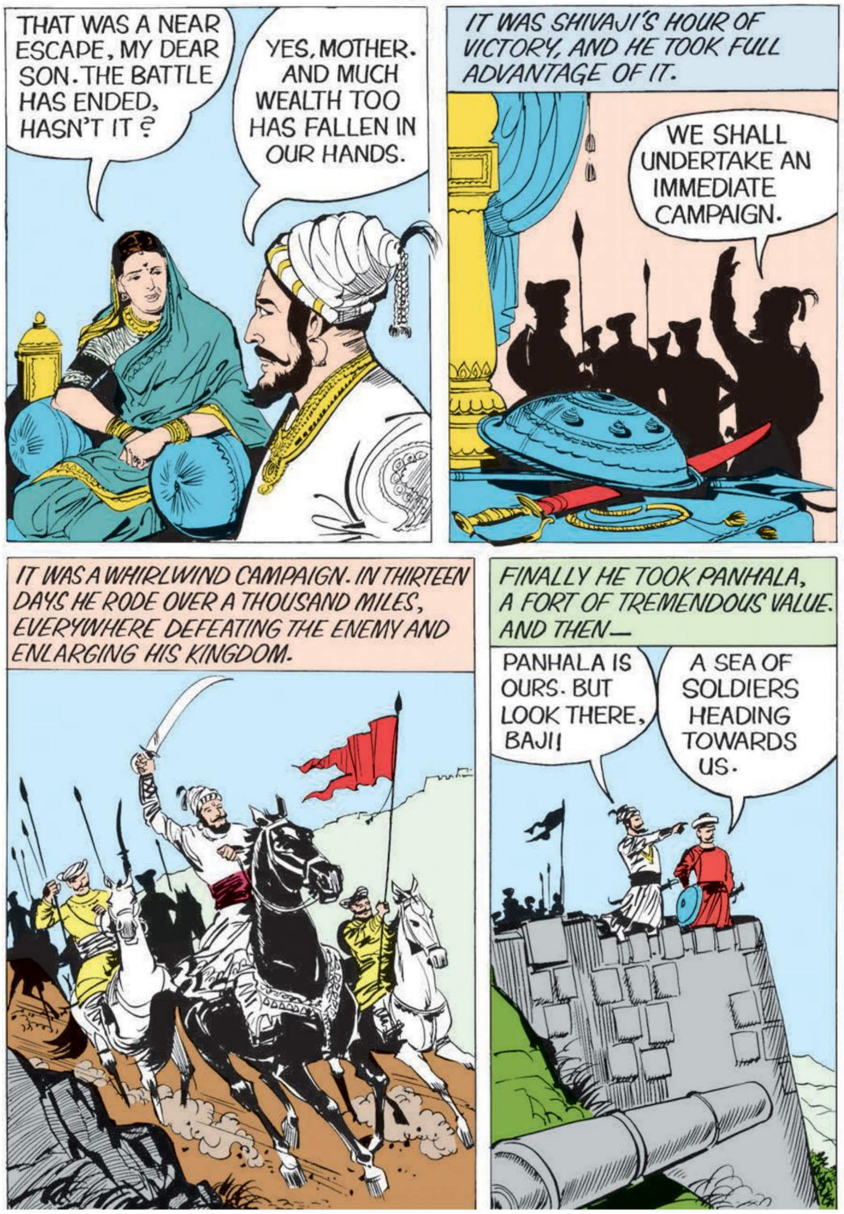

THEN, AS THE WOUNDED KHAN STAGGERED OUT–

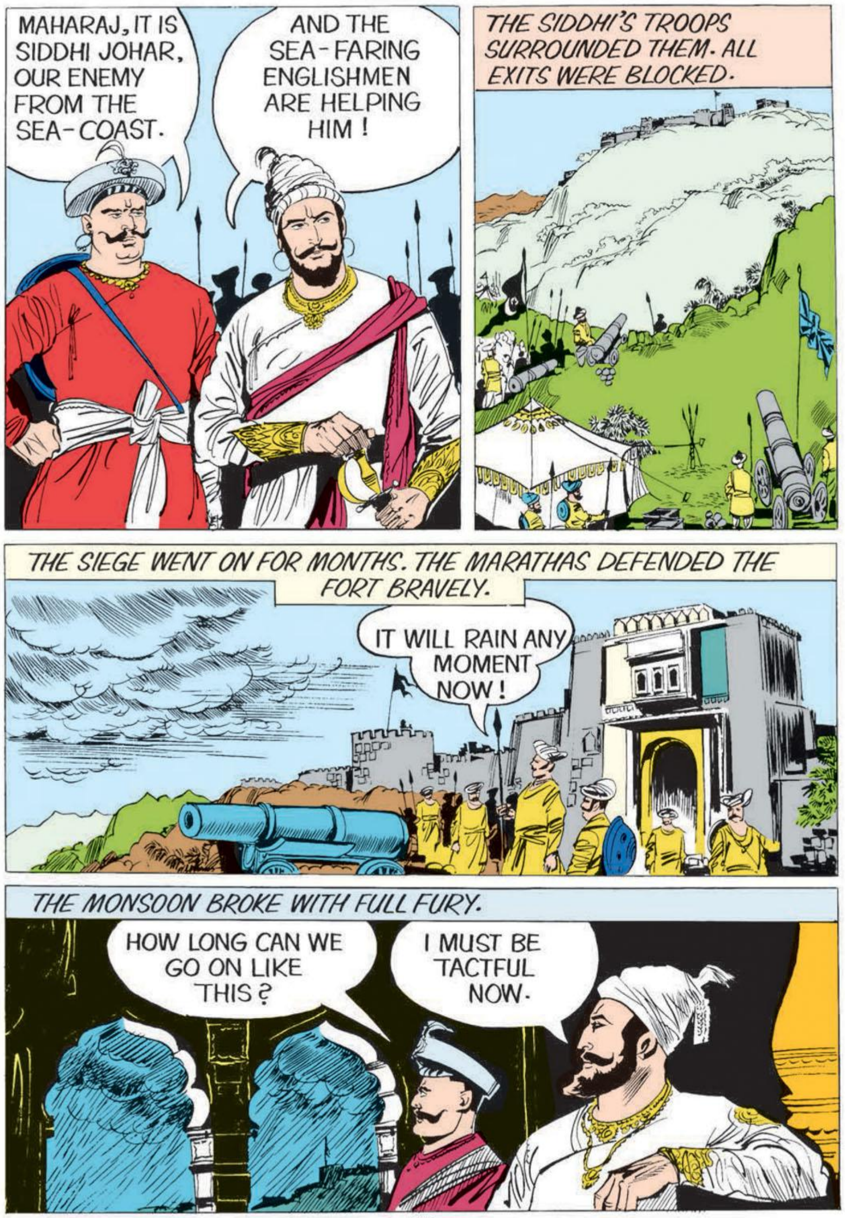

THE KHAN IS DEAD !
LONG LIVE SHIVAJI MAHARAJ !

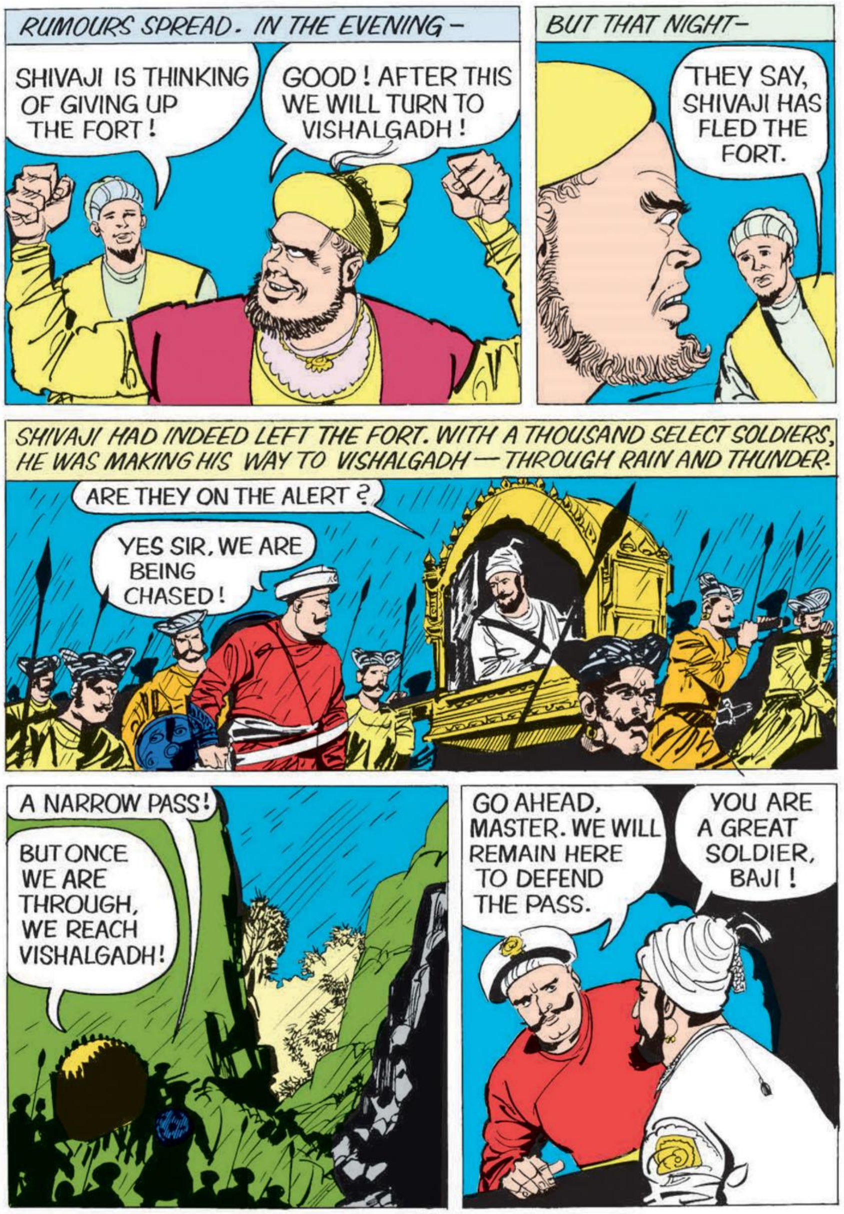

SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE JUNGLE THAT SURROUNDED THE FORT, WAVE AFTER WAVE OF MARATHA SOLDIERS POURED OUT– RAISING THEIR WAR CRY.
HAR HAR MAHADEO!

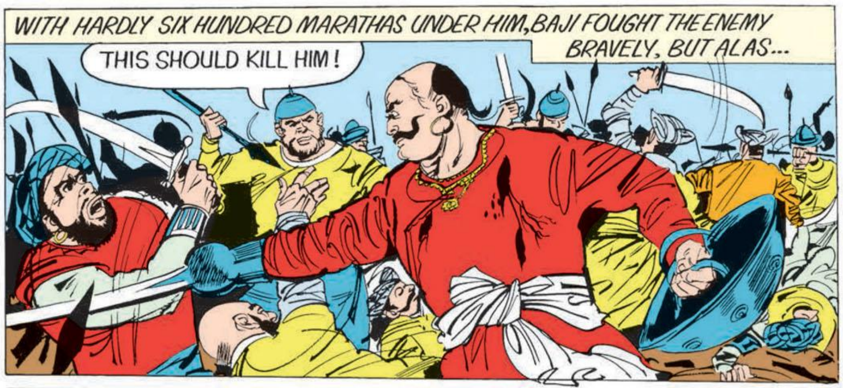

THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED LASTED TILL SUNSET.
THEY ARE RUNNING AWAY!
VICTORY IS OURS.

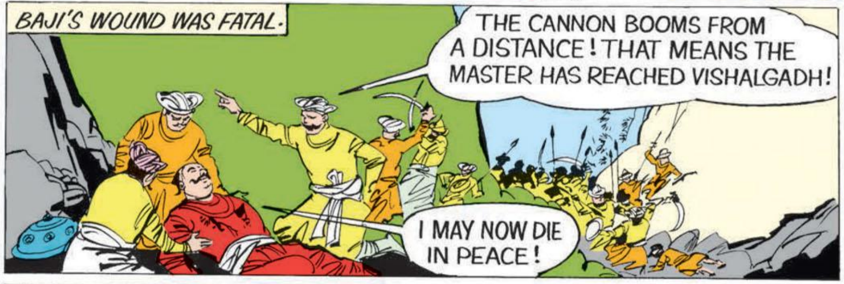

THERE WAS JUBILATION ALL AROUND.
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE KHAN'S HEAD?
BURY IT ALONG WITH HIS BODY WITH FULL HONOURS.
WHAT A NOBLE MAN! HE DOESN'T WISH TO DISHONOUR A FALLEN ENEMY.

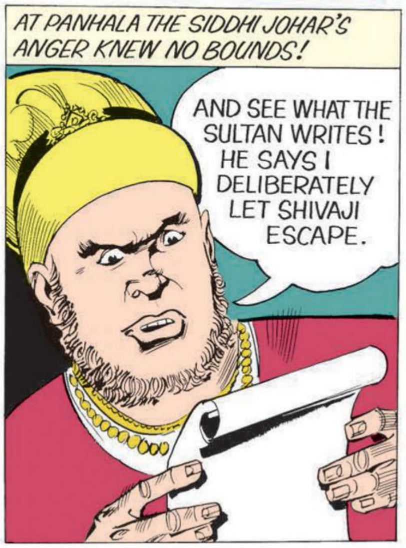

THAT WAS A NEAR ESCAPE, MY DEAR SON. THE BATTLE HAS ENDED, HASN'T IT?
YES, MOTHER. AND MUCH WEALTH TOO HAS FALLEN IN OUR HANDS.
IT WAS SHIVAJI'S HOUR OF VICTORY, AND HE TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT.
WE SHALL UNDERTAKE AN IMMEDIATE CAMPAIGN.
IT WAS A WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN. IN THIRTEEN DAYS HE RODE OVER A THOUSAND MILES, EVERYWHERE DEFEATING THE ENEMY AND ENLARGING HIS KINGDOM.
FINALLY HE TOOK PANHALA, A FORT OF TREMENDOUS VALUE. AND THEN—
PANHALA IS OURS. BUT LOOK THERE, BAJI!
A SEA OF SOLDIERS HEADING TOWARDS US.

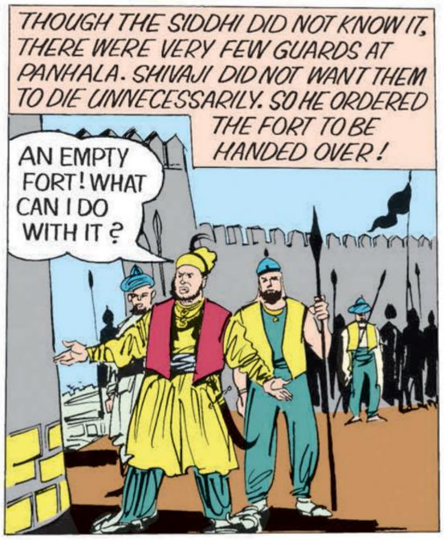

MAHARAJ, IT IS SIDDHI JOHAR, OUR ENEMY FROM THE SEA-COAST.
AND THE SEA-FARING ENGLISHMEN ARE HELPING HIM !
THE SIDDHI'S TROOPS SURROUNDED THEM. ALL EXITS WERE BLOCKED.
THE SIEGE WENT ON FOR MONTHS. THE MARATHAS DEFENDED THE FORT BRAVELY.
IT WILL RAIN ANY MOMENT NOW !
THE MONSOON BROKE WITH FULL FURY.
HOW LONG CAN WE GO ON LIKE THIS ?
I MUST BE TACTFUL NOW.

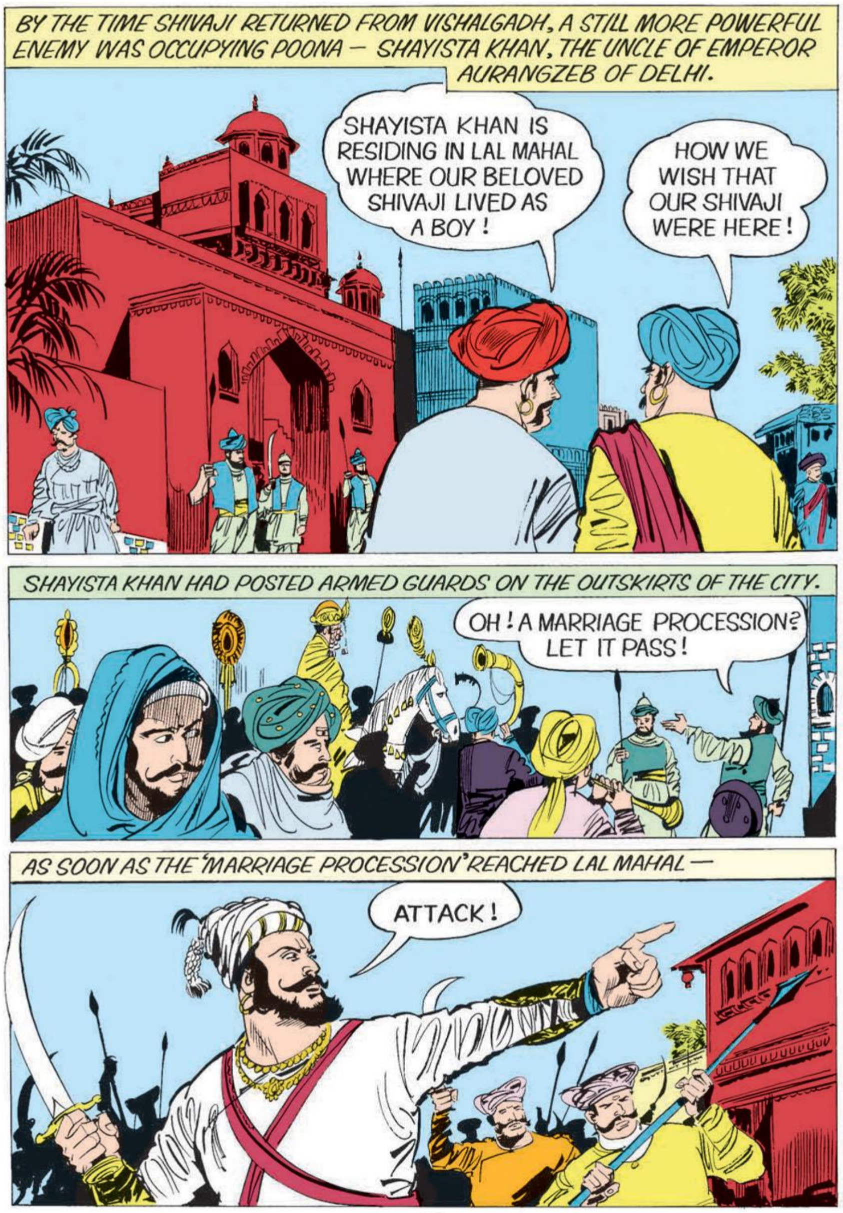

RUMOURS SPREAD. IN THE EVENING –
SHIVAJI IS THINKING OF GIVING UP THE FORT!
GOOD! AFTER THIS WE WILL TURN TO VISHALGADH!
BUT THAT NIGHT–
THEY SAY, SHIVAJI HAS FLED THE FORT.
SHIVAJI HAD INDEED LEFT THE FORT. WITH A THOUSAND SELECT SOLDIERS, HE WAS MAKING HIS WAY TO VISHALGADH — THROUGH RAIN AND THUNDER.
ARE THEY ON THE ALERT?
YES SIR, WE ARE BEING CHASED!
A NARROW PASS!
BUT ONCE WE ARE THROUGH, WE REACH VISHALGADH!
GO AHEAD, MASTER. WE WILL REMAIN HERE TO DEFEND THE PASS.
YOU ARE A GREAT SOLDIER, BAJI!

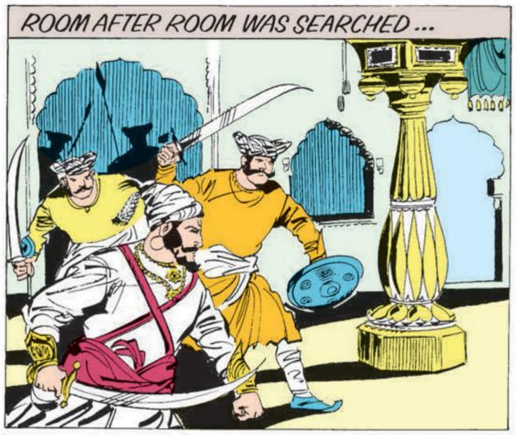

WITH HARDLY SIX HUNDRED MARATHAS UNDER HIM, BAJI FOUGHT THE ENEMY BRAVELY, BUT ALAS...
THIS SHOULD KILL HIM!

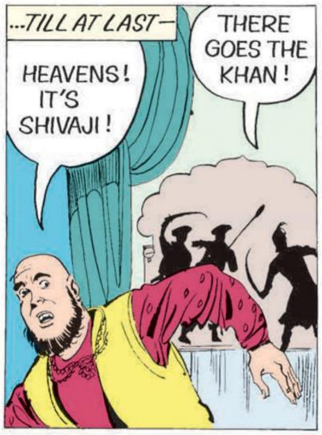

BAJI'S WOUND WAS FATAL.
THE CANNON BOOMS FROM A DISTANCE! THAT MEANS THE MASTER HAS REACHED VISHALGADH!
I MAY NOW DIE IN PEACE!

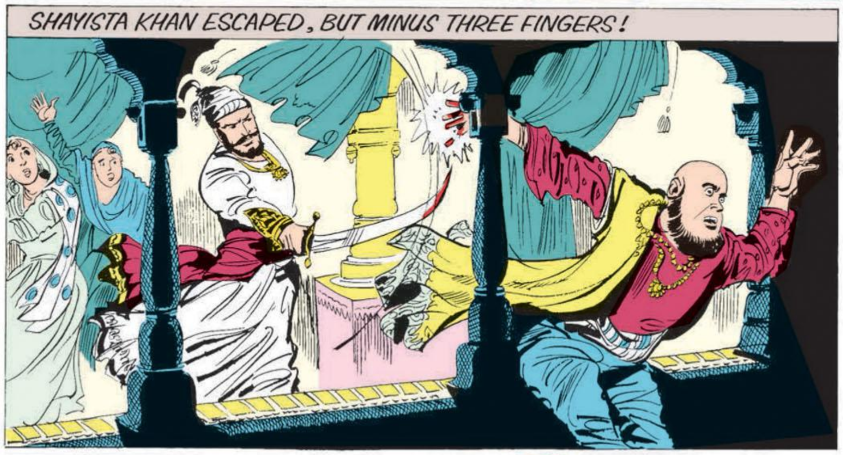

AT PANHALA THE SIDDHI JOHAR'S ANGER KNEW NO BOUNDS!
AND SEE WHAT THE SULTAN WRITES! HE SAYS I DELIBERATELY LET SHIVAJI ESCAPE.

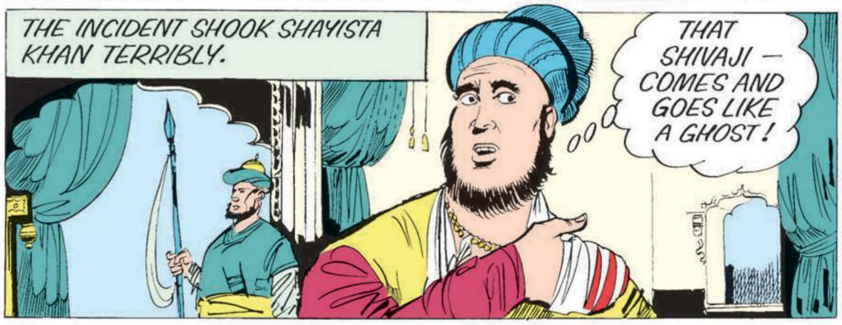

THOUGH THE SIDDHI DID NOT KNOW IT, THERE WERE VERY FEW GUARDS AT PANHALA. SHIVAJI DID NOT WANT THEM TO DIE UNNECESSARILY. SO HE ORDERED THE FORT TO BE HANDED OVER!
AN EMPTY FORT! WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?

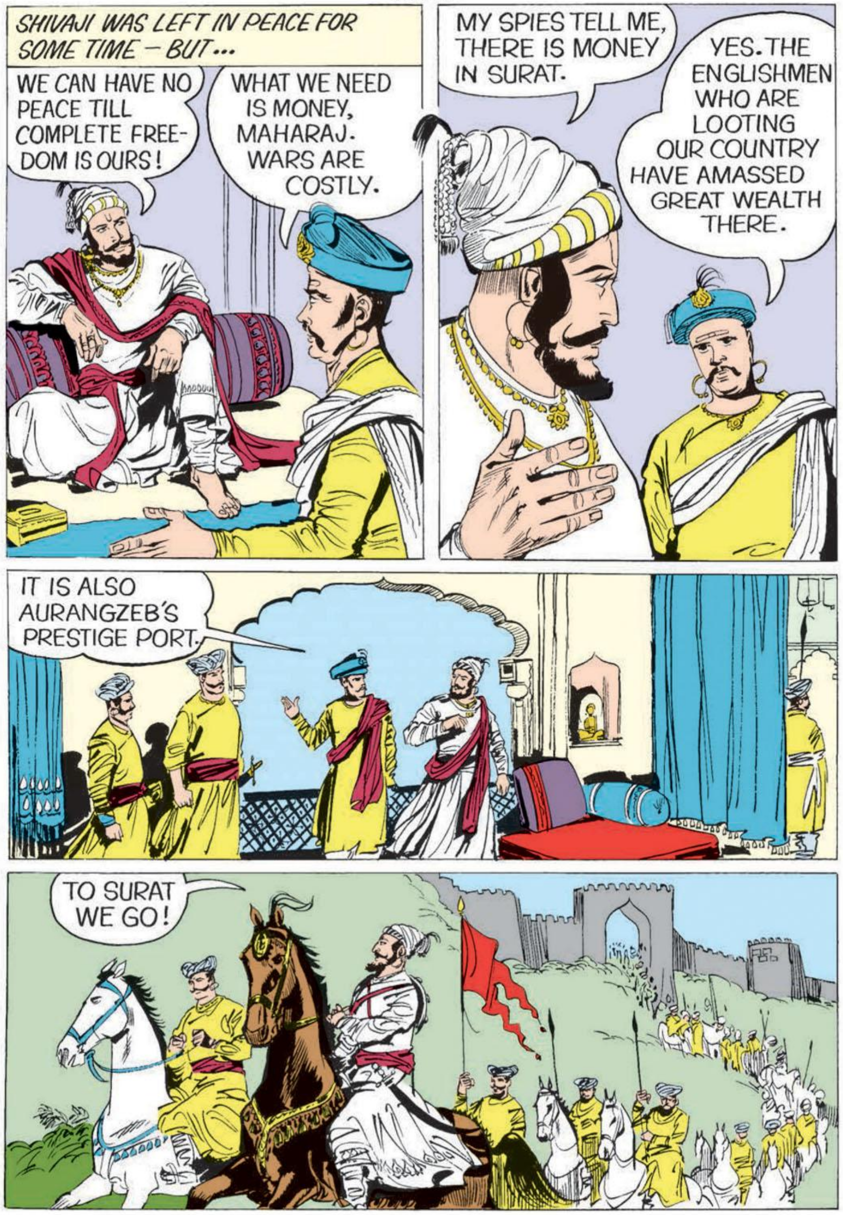

BY THE TIME SHIVAJI RETURNED FROM VISHALGADH, A STILL MORE POWERFUL ENEMY WAS OCCUPYING POONA — SHAYISTA KHAN, THE UNCLE OF EMPEROR AURANGZEB OF DELHI.
SHAYISTA KHAN IS RESIDING IN LAL MAHAL WHERE OUR BELOVED SHIVAJI LIVED AS A BOY!
HOW WE WISH THAT OUR SHIVAJI WERE HERE!
SHAYISTA KHAN HAD POSTED ARMED GUARDS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.
OH! A MARRIAGE PROCESSION? LET IT PASS!
AS SOON AS THE 'MARRIAGE PROCESSION' REACHED LAL MAHAL —
ATTACK!

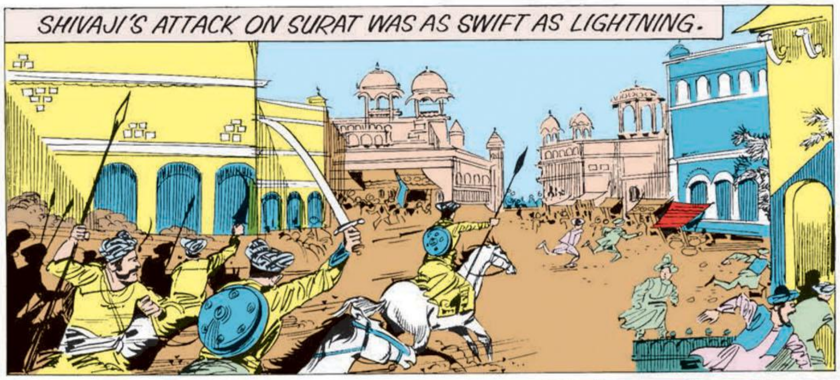

ROOM AFTER ROOM WAS SEARCHED ...

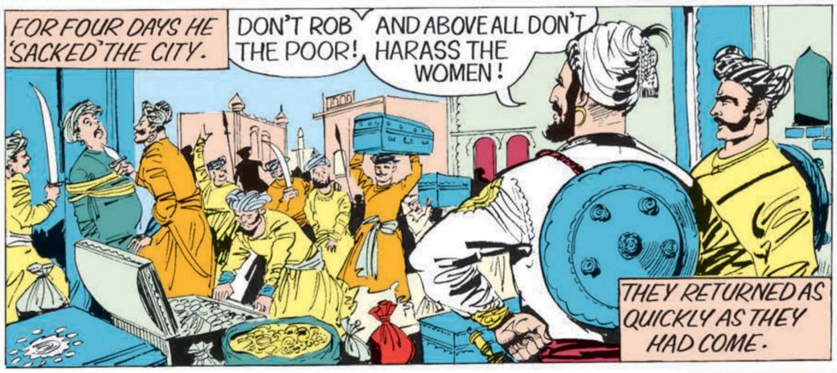

...TILL AT LAST—
HEAVENS! IT'S SHIVAJI!
THERE GOES THE KHAN!

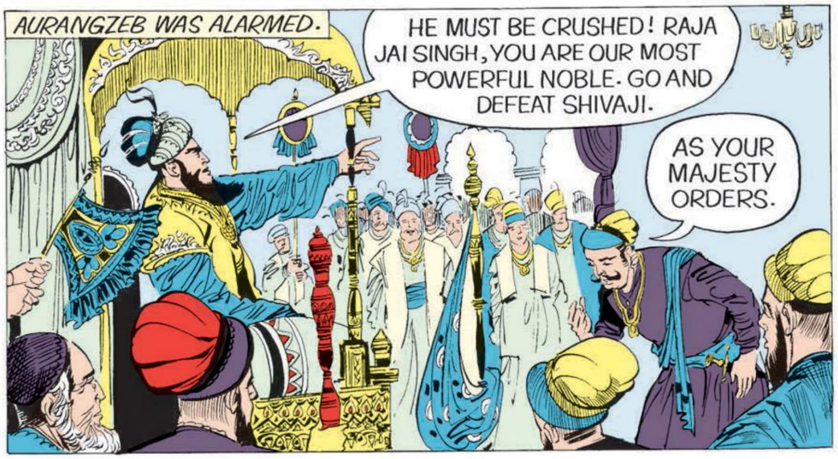

SHAYISTA KHAN ESCAPED, BUT MINUS THREE FINGERS!

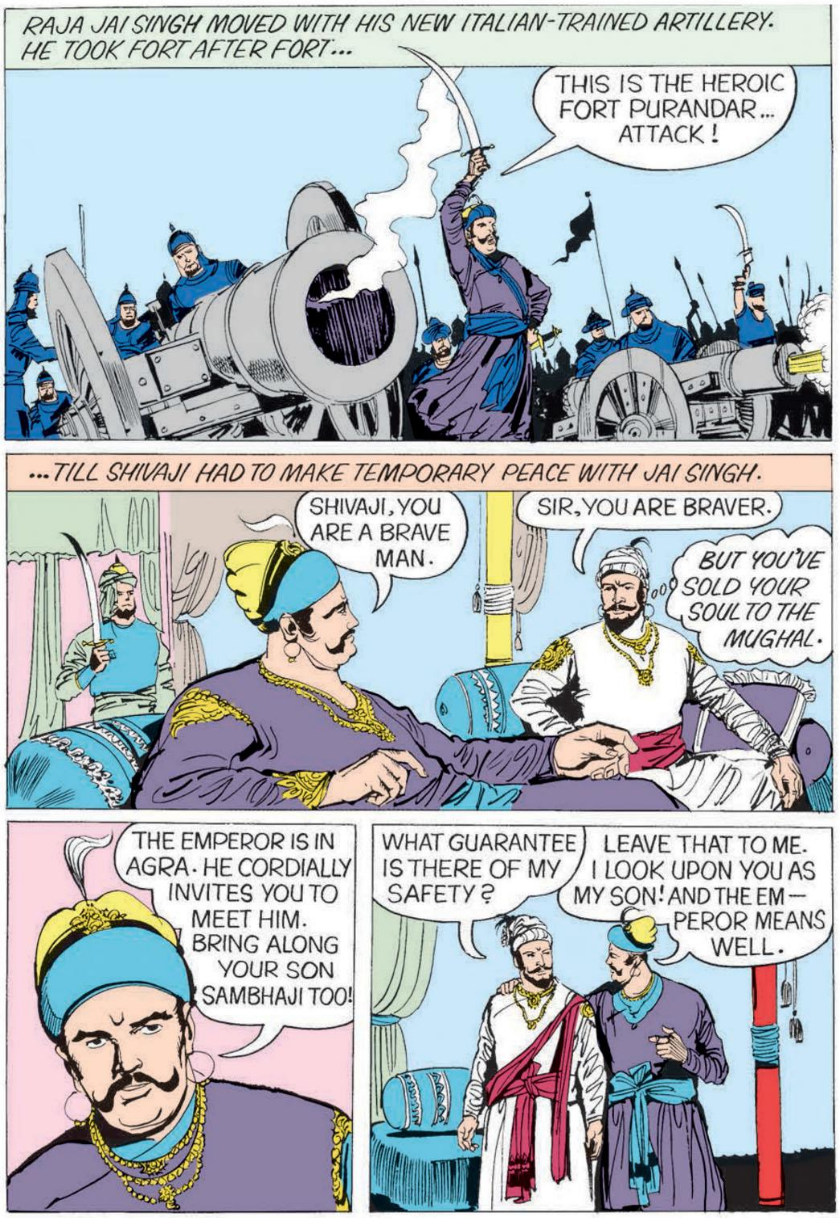

THE INCIDENT SHOOK SHAYISTA KHAN TERRIBLY.
THAT SHIVAJI — COMES AND GOES LIKE A GHOST!

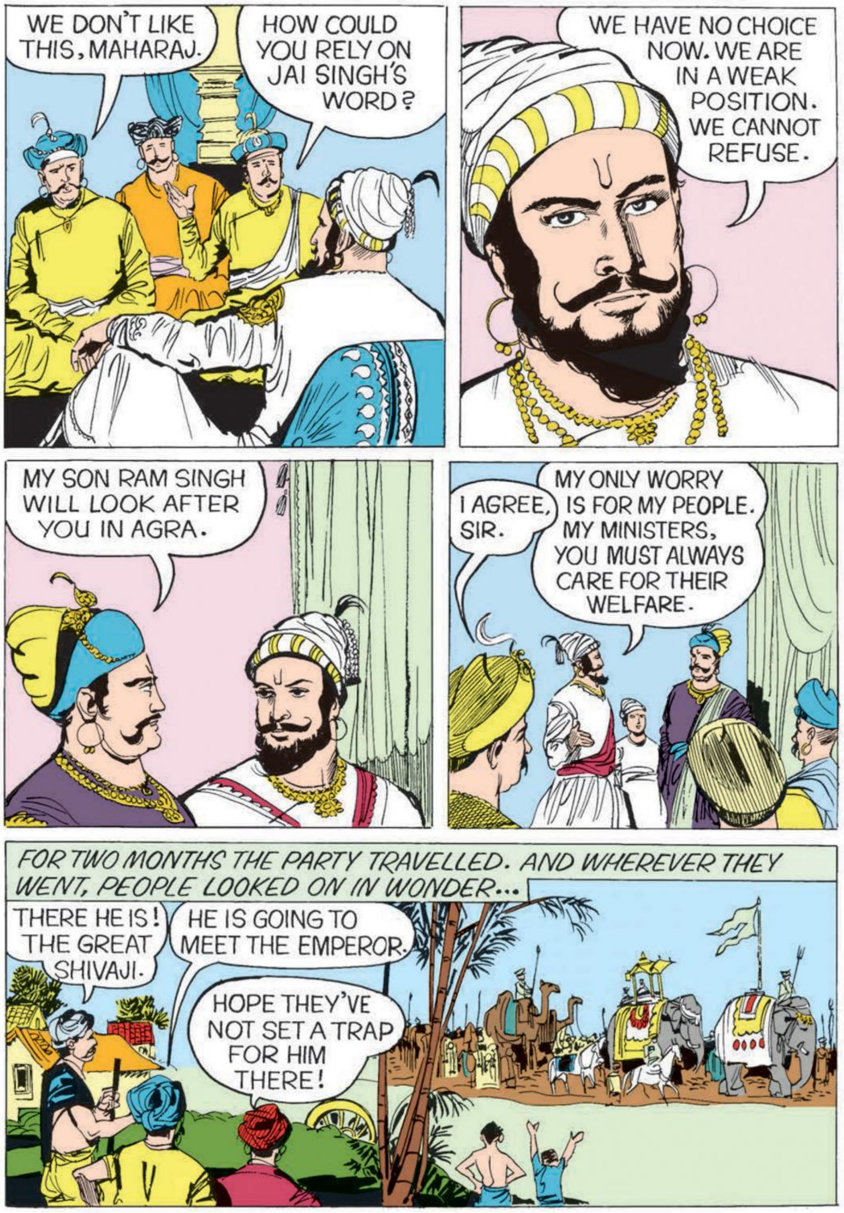

SHIVAJI WAS LEFT IN PEACE FOR SOME TIME — BUT...
WE CAN HAVE NO PEACE TILL COMPLETE FREEDOM IS OURS!
WHAT WE NEED IS MONEY, MAHARAJ. WARS ARE COSTLY.
MY SPIES TELL ME, THERE IS MONEY IN SURAT.
YES. THE ENGLISHMEN WHO ARE LOOTING OUR COUNTRY HAVE AMASSED GREAT WEALTH THERE.
IT IS ALSO AURANGZEB'S PRESTIGE PORT.
TO SURAT WE GO!

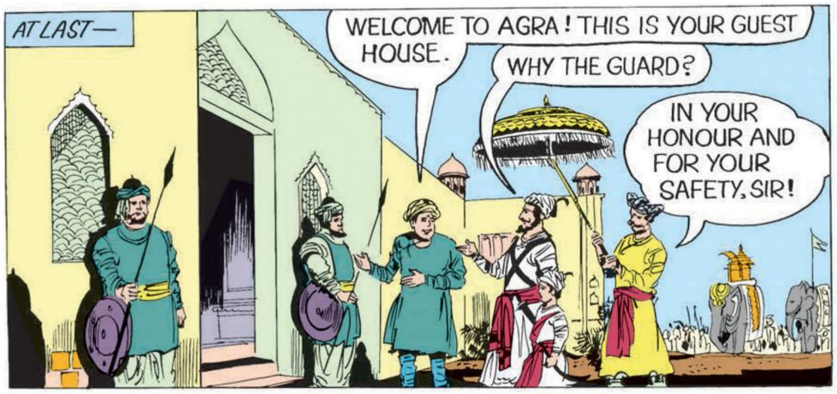

SHIVAJI'S ATTACK ON SURAT WAS AS SWIFT AS LIGHTNING.

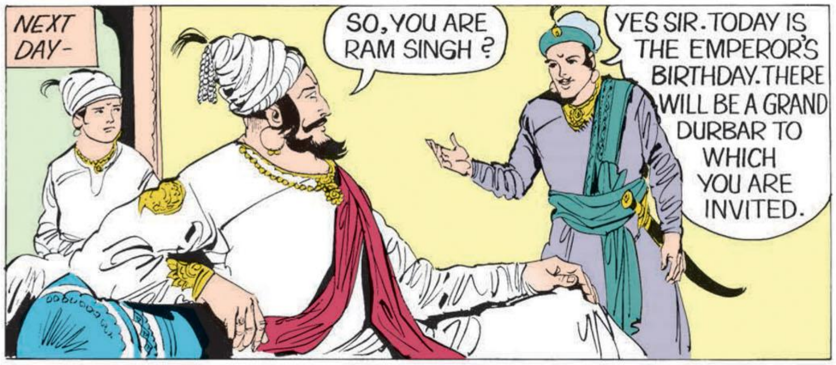

FOR FOUR DAYS HE 'SACKED' THE CITY.
DON'T ROB THE POOR!
AND ABOVE ALL DON'T HARASS THE WOMEN!
THEY RETURNED AS QUICKLY AS THEY HAD COME.

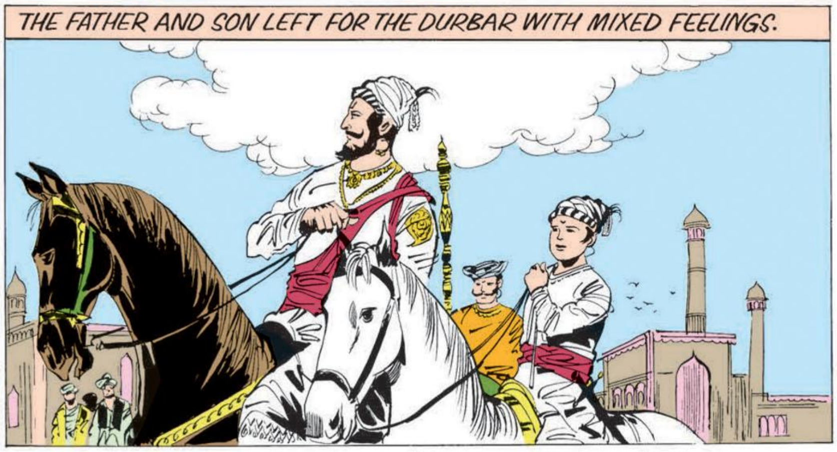

AURANGZEB WAS ALARMED.
HE MUST BE CRUSHED! RAJA JAI SINGH, YOU ARE OUR MOST POWERFUL NOBLE. GO AND DEFEAT SHIVAJI.
AS YOUR MAJESTY ORDERS.

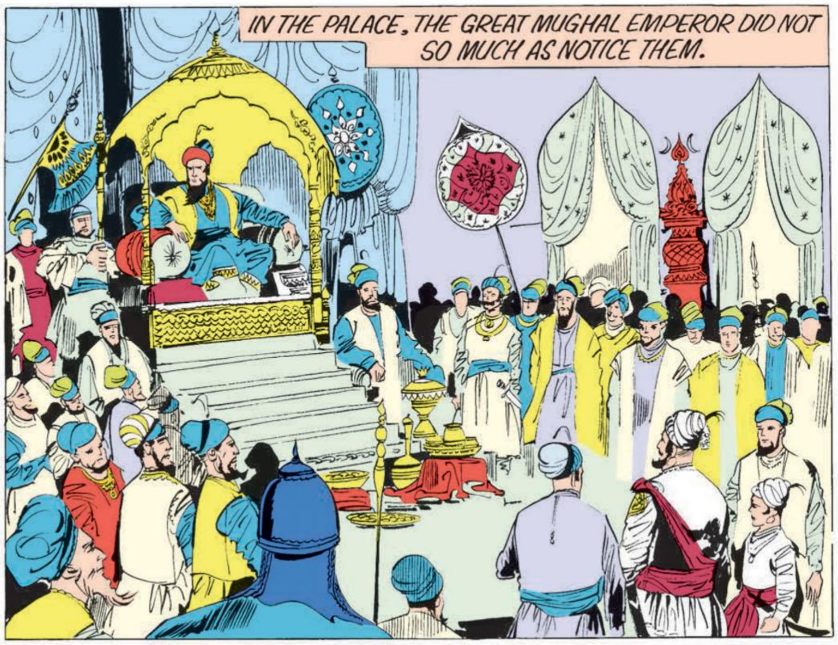

RAJA JAI SINGH MOVED WITH HIS NEW ITALIAN-TRAINED ARTILLERY. HE TOOK FORT AFTER FORT...
THIS IS THE HEROIC FORT PURANDAR... ATTACK!
...TILL SHIVAJI HAD TO MAKE TEMPORARY PEACE WITH JAI SINGH.
SHIVAJI, YOU ARE A BRAVE MAN.
SIR, YOU ARE BRAVER.
BUT YOU'VE SOLD YOUR SOUL TO THE MUGHAL.
THE EMPEROR IS IN AGRA. HE CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO MEET HIM. BRING ALONG YOUR SON SAMBHAJI TOO!
WHAT GUARANTEE IS THERE OF MY SAFETY?
LEAVE THAT TO ME. I LOOK UPON YOU AS MY SON! AND THE EMPEROR MEANS WELL.

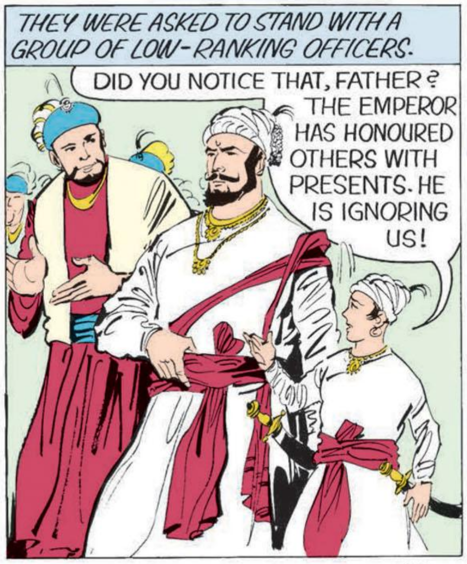

WE DON'T LIKE THIS, MAHARAJ.
HOW COULD YOU RELY ON JAI SINGH'S WORD?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE NOW. WE ARE IN A WEAK POSITION. WE CANNOT REFUSE.
MY SON RAM SINGH WILL LOOK AFTER YOU IN AGRA.
I AGREE, SIR.
MY ONLY WORRY IS FOR MY PEOPLE. MY MINISTERS, YOU MUST ALWAYS CARE FOR THEIR WELFARE.
FOR TWO MONTHS THE PARTY TRAVELLED. AND WHEREVER THEY WENT, PEOPLE LOOKED ON IN WONDER...
THERE HE IS! THE GREAT SHIVAJI.
HE IS GOING TO MEET THE EMPEROR.
HOPE THEY'VE NOT SET A TRAP FOR HIM THERE!

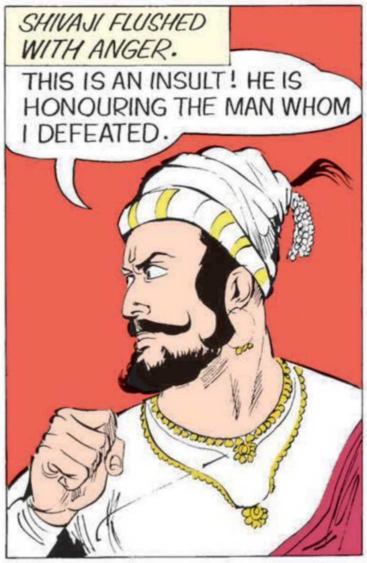

AT LAST—
WELCOME TO AGRA! THIS IS YOUR GUEST HOUSE.
WHY THE GUARD?
IN YOUR HONOUR AND FOR YOUR SAFETY, SIR!

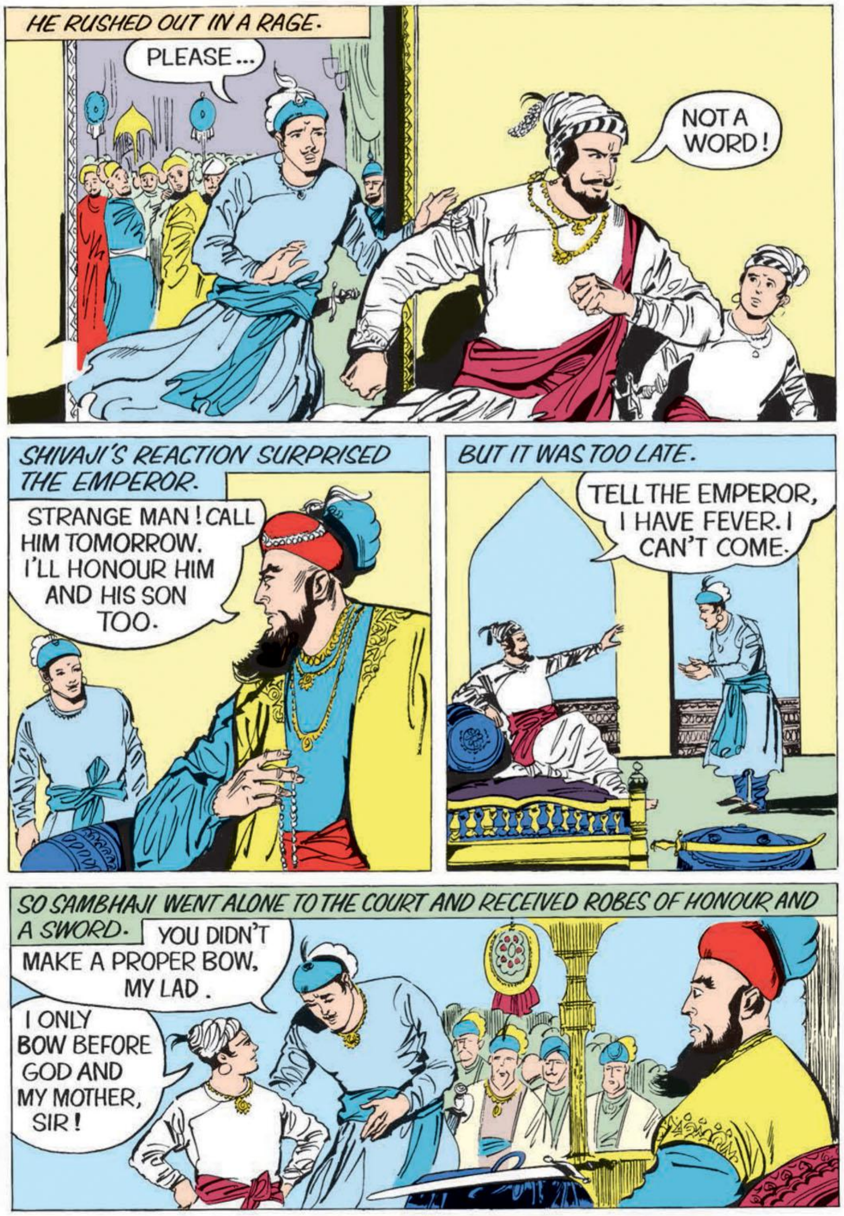

NEXT DAY-
SO, YOU ARE RAM SINGH?
YES SIR. TODAY IS THE EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY. THERE WILL BE A GRAND DURBAR TO WHICH YOU ARE INVITED.

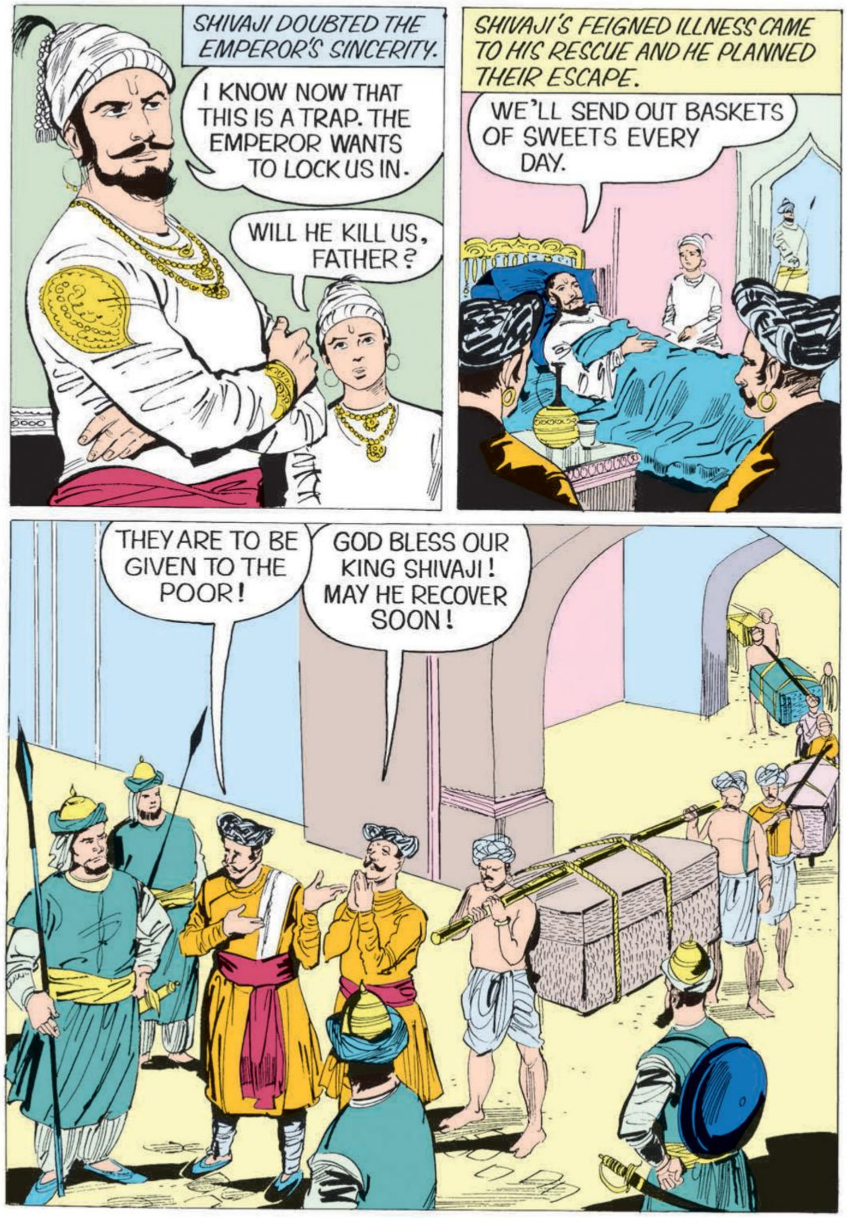

THE FATHER AND SON LEFT FOR THE DURBAR WITH MIXED FEELINGS.

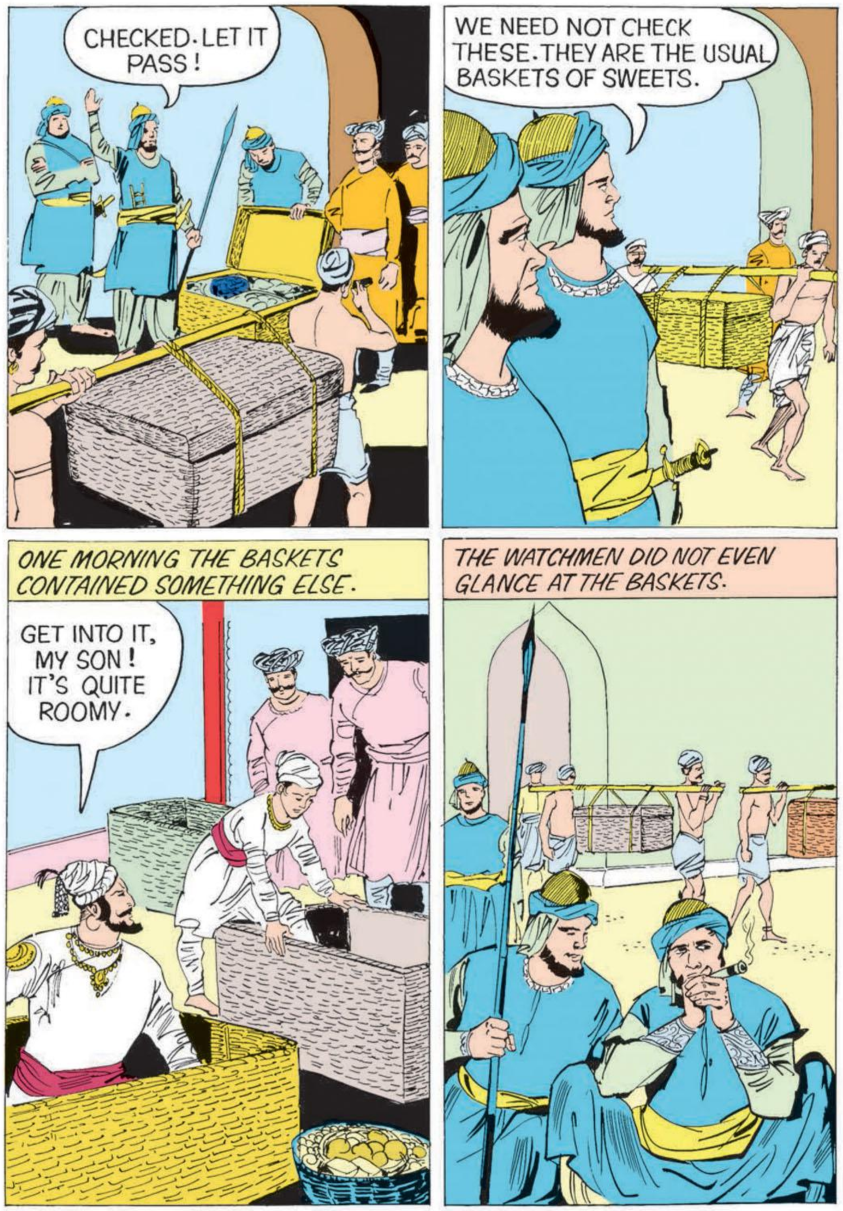

IN THE PALACE, THE GREAT MUGHAL EMPEROR DID NOT SO MUCH AS NOTICE THEM.

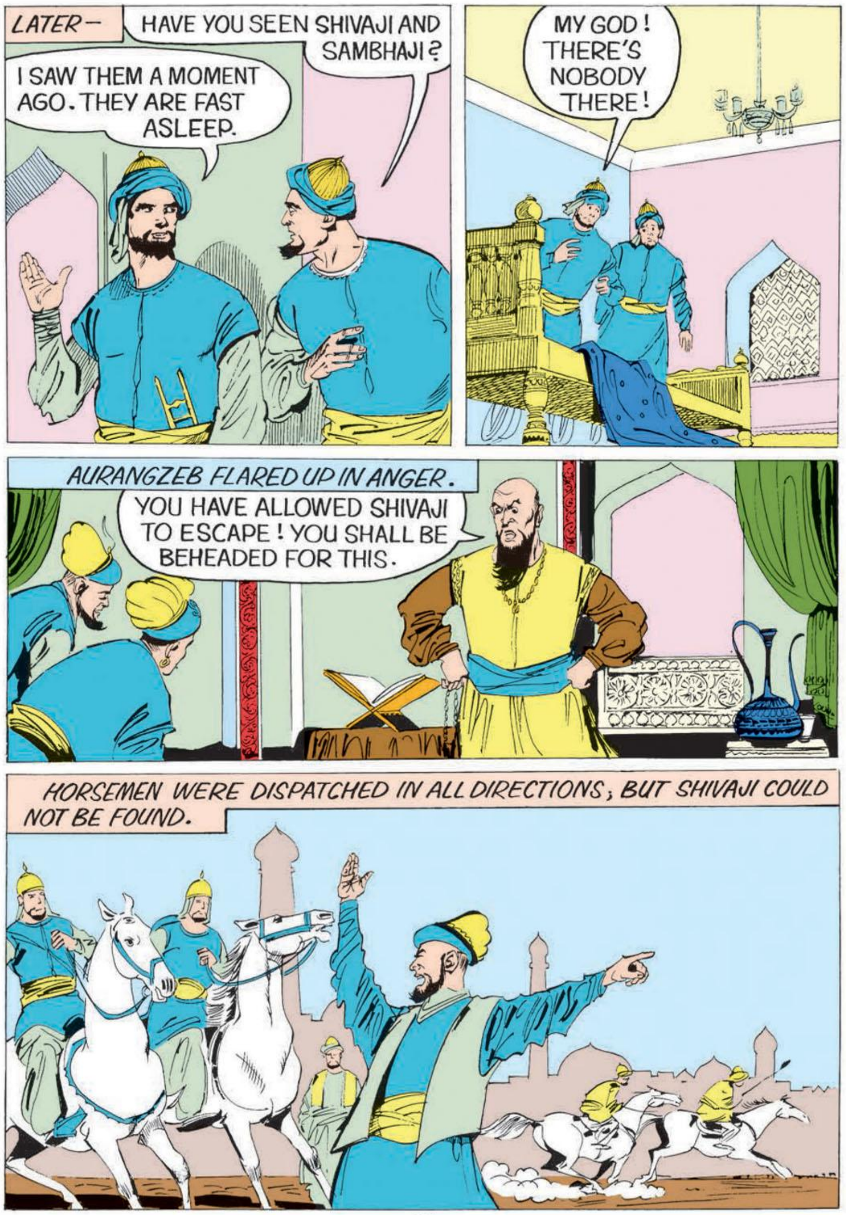

THEY WERE ASKED TO STAND WITH A GROUP OF LOW-RANKING OFFICERS.
DID YOU NOTICE THAT, FATHER? THE EMPEROR HAS HONOURED OTHERS WITH PRESENTS. HE IS IGNORING US!

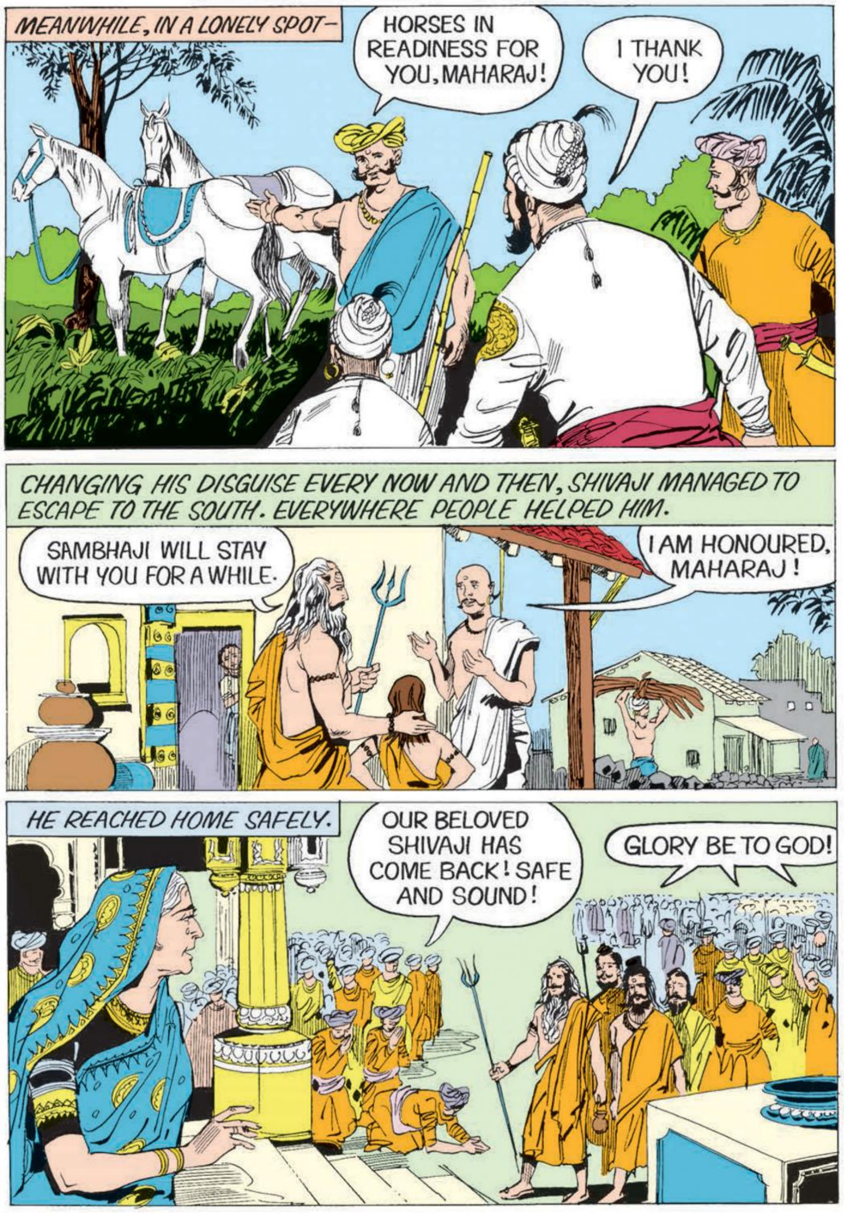

SHIVAJI FLUSHED WITH ANGER.
THIS IS AN INSULT! HE IS HONOURING THE MAN WHOM I DEFEATED.

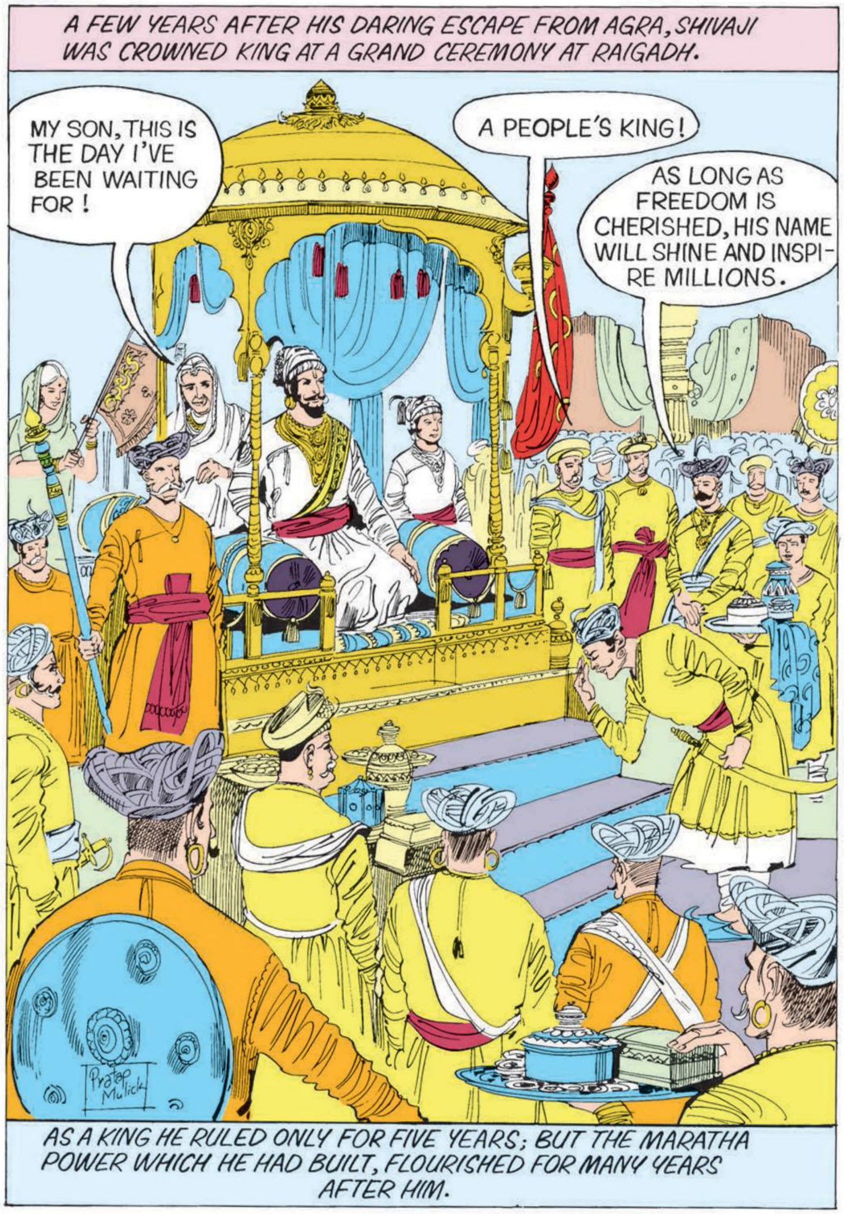

HE RUSHED OUT IN A RAGE.
PLEASE ...
NOT A WORD!
SHIVAJI'S REACTION SURPRISED THE EMPEROR.
STRANGE MAN! CALL HIM TOMORROW. I'LL HONOUR HIM AND HIS SON TOO.
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.
TELL THE EMPEROR, I HAVE FEVER. I CAN'T COME.
SO SAMBHAJI WENT ALONE TO THE COURT AND RECEIVED ROBES OF HONOUR AND A SWORD.
YOU DIDN'T MAKE A PROPER BOW, MY LAD.
I ONLY BOW BEFORE GOD AND MY MOTHER, SIR!

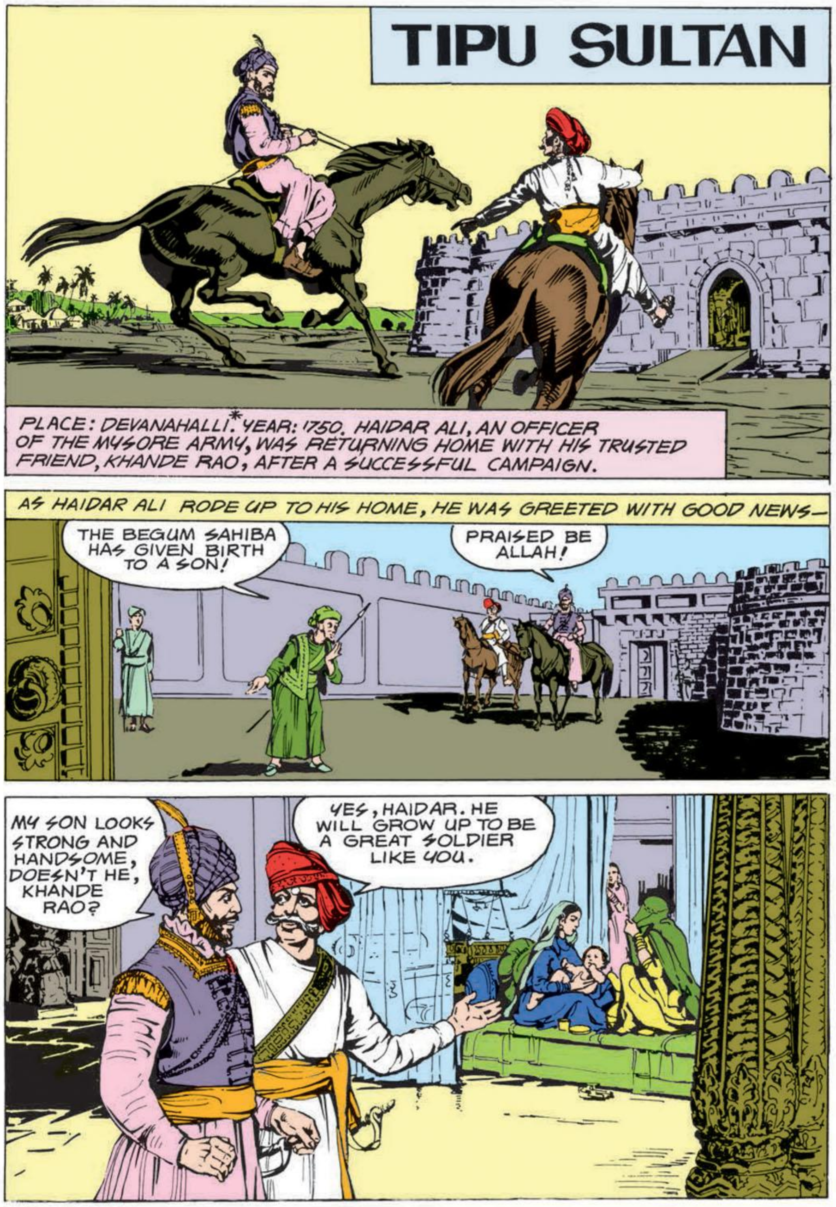

SHIVAJI DOUBTED THE EMPEROR'S SINCERITY.
I KNOW NOW THAT THIS IS A TRAP. THE EMPEROR WANTS TO LOCK US IN.
WILL HE KILL US, FATHER?
SHIVAJI'S FEIGNED ILLNESS CAME TO HIS RESCUE AND HE PLANNED THEIR ESCAPE.
WE'LL SEND OUT BASKETS OF SWEETS EVERY DAY.
THEY ARE TO BE GIVEN TO THE POOR!
GOD BLESS OUR KING SHIVAJI! MAY HE RECOVER SOON!


CHECKED. LET IT PASS!
WE NEED NOT CHECK THESE. THEY ARE THE USUAL BASKETS OF SWEETS.
ONE MORNING THE BASKETS CONTAINED SOMETHING ELSE.
GET INTO IT, MY SON! IT'S QUITE ROOMY.
THE WATCHMEN DID NOT EVEN GLANCE AT THE BASKETS.

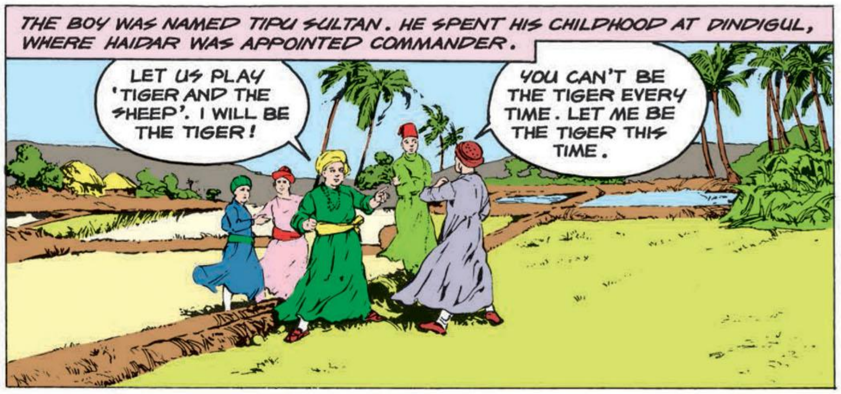

LATER—
HAVE YOU SEEN SHIVAJI AND SAMBHAJI?
I SAW THEM A MOMENT AGO. THEY ARE FAST ASLEEP.
MY GOD! THERE'S NOBODY THERE!
AURANGZEB FLARED UP IN ANGER.
YOU HAVE ALLOWED SHIVAJI TO ESCAPE! YOU SHALL BE BEHEADED FOR THIS.
HORSEMEN WERE DISPATCHED IN ALL DIRECTIONS, BUT SHIVAJI COULD NOT BE FOUND.


MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY SPOT–
HORSES IN READINESS FOR YOU, MAHARAJ!
I THANK YOU!
CHANGING HIS DISGUISE EVERY NOW AND THEN, SHIVAJI MANAGED TO ESCAPE TO THE SOUTH. EVERYWHERE PEOPLE HELPED HIM.
SAMBHAJI WILL STAY WITH YOU FOR A WHILE.
I AM HONOURED, MAHARAJ!
HE REACHED HOME SAFELY.
OUR BELOVED SHIVAJI HAS COME BACK! SAFE AND SOUND!
GLORY BE TO GOD!


A FEW YEARS AFTER HIS DARING ESCAPE FROM AGRA, SHIVAJI WAS CROWNED KING AT A GRAND CEREMONY AT RAIGADH.
MY SON, THIS IS THE DAY I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR !
A PEOPLE'S KING!
AS LONG AS FREEDOM IS CHERISHED, HIS NAME WILL SHINE AND INSPIRE MILLIONS.
Pratap Mulick
AS A KING HE RULED ONLY FOR FIVE YEARS; BUT THE MARATHA POWER WHICH HE HAD BUILT, FLOURISHED FOR MANY YEARS AFTER HIM.

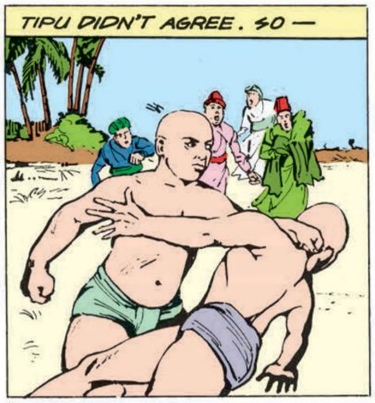

TIPU SULTAN
PLACE: DEVANAHALLI.* YEAR: 1750. HAIDAR ALI, AN OFFICER OF THE MYSORE ARMY, WAS RETURNING HOME WITH HIS TRUSTED FRIEND, KHANDE RAO, AFTER A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN.
AS HAIDAR ALI RODE UP TO HIS HOME, HE WAS GREETED WITH GOOD NEWS—
THE BEGUM SAHIBA HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON!
PRAISED BE ALLAH!
MY SON LOOKS STRONG AND HANDSOME, DOESN'T HE, KHANDE RAO?
YES, HAIDAR. HE WILL GROW UP TO BE A GREAT SOLDIER LIKE YOU.

* NEAR BANGALORE

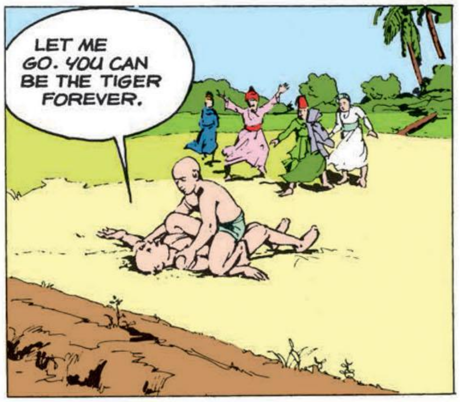


THE BOY WAS NAMED TIPU SULTAN. HE SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD AT DINDIGUL, WHERE HAIDAR WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER.

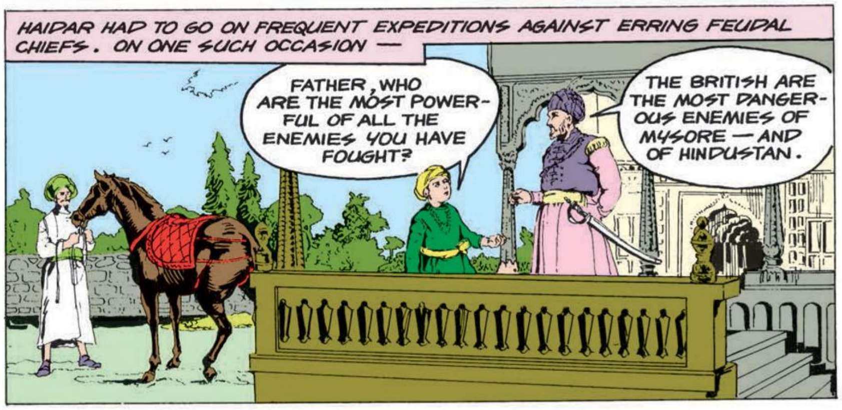
LET US PLAY 'TIGER AND THE SHEEP'. I WILL BE THE TIGER!
YOU CAN'T BE THE TIGER EVERY TIME. LET ME BE THE TIGER THIS TIME.



TIPU DIDN'T AGREE. SO —

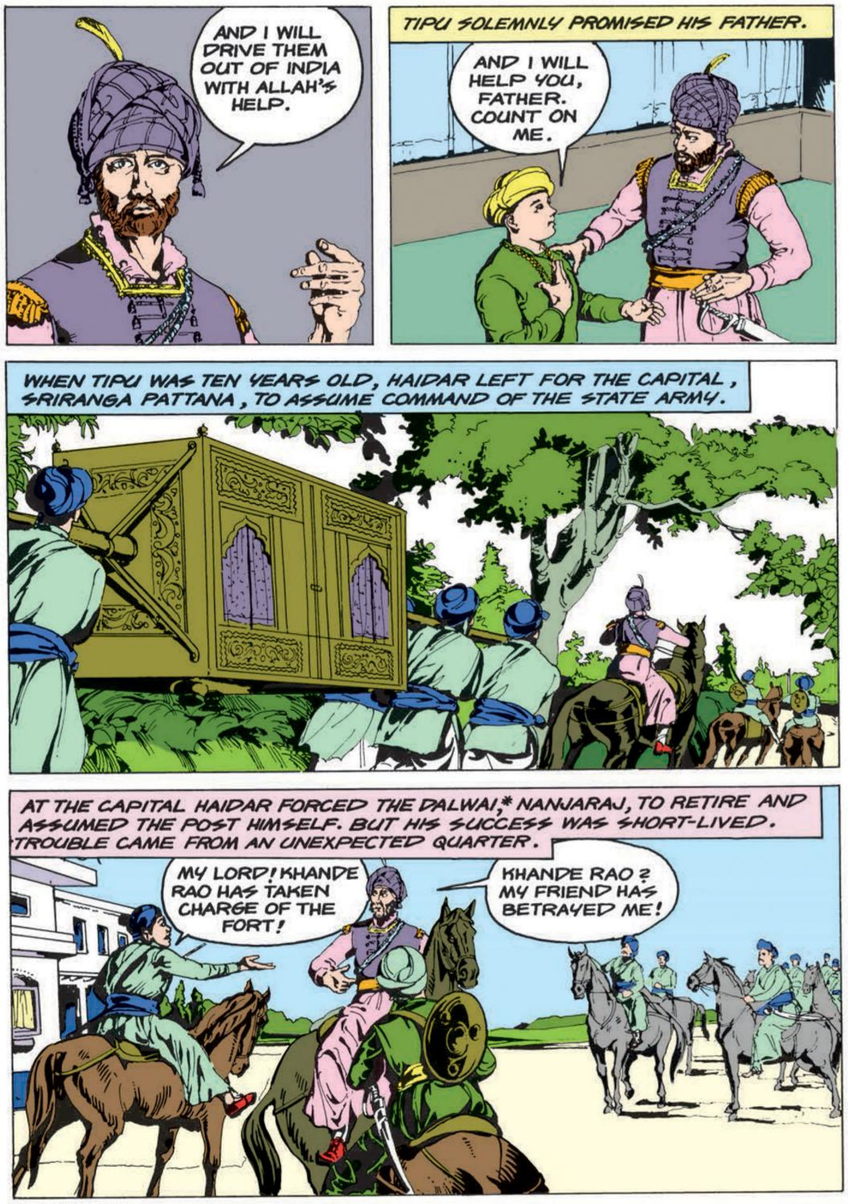


LET ME GO. YOU CAN BE THE TIGER FOREVER.

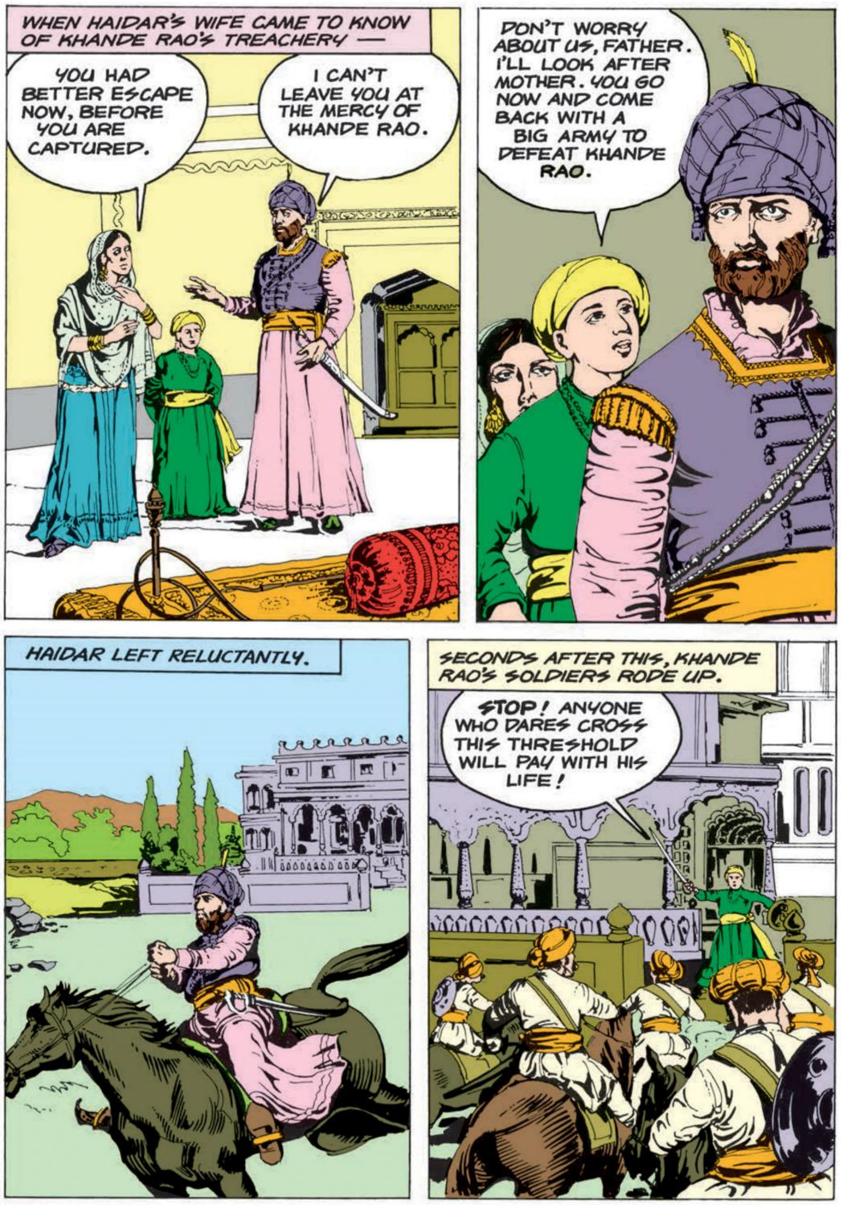


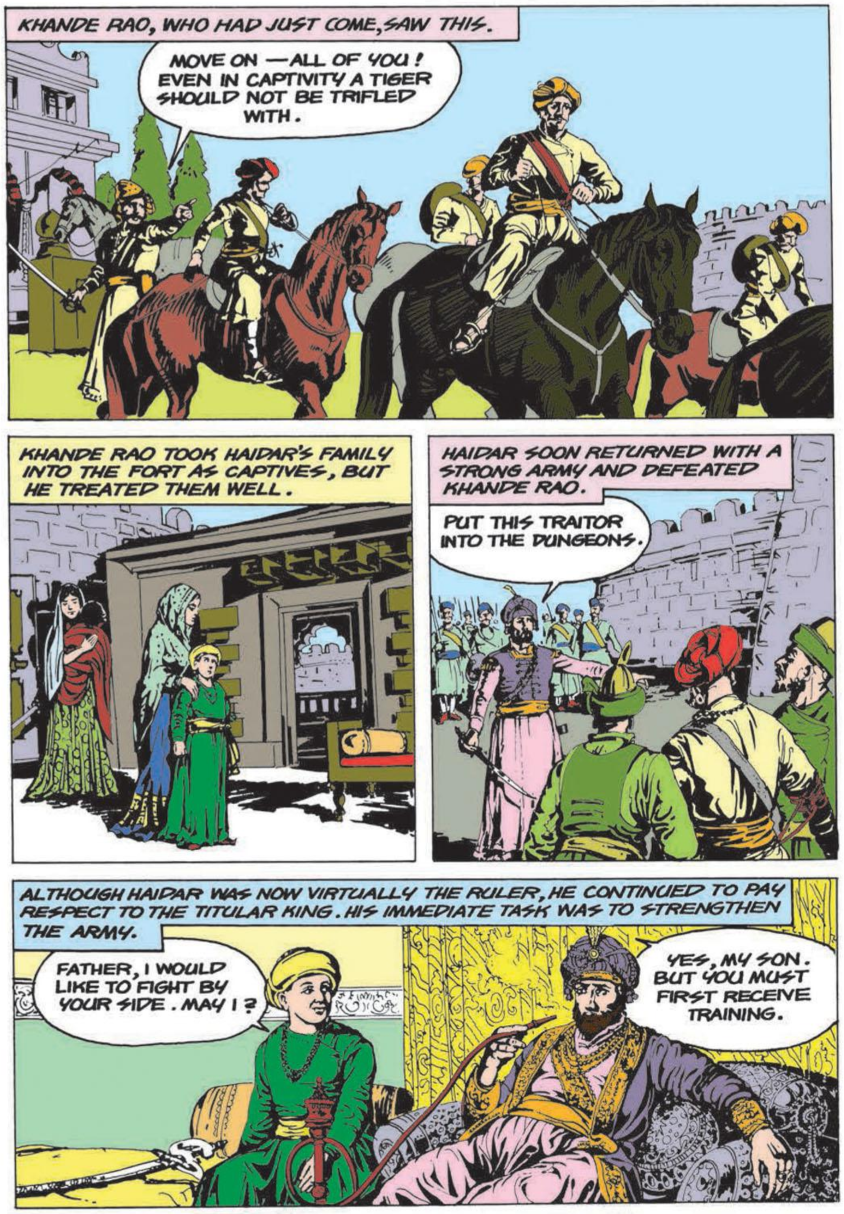
HAIDAR HAD TO GO ON FREQUENT EXPEDITIONS AGAINST ERRING FEUDAL CHIEFS. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION —

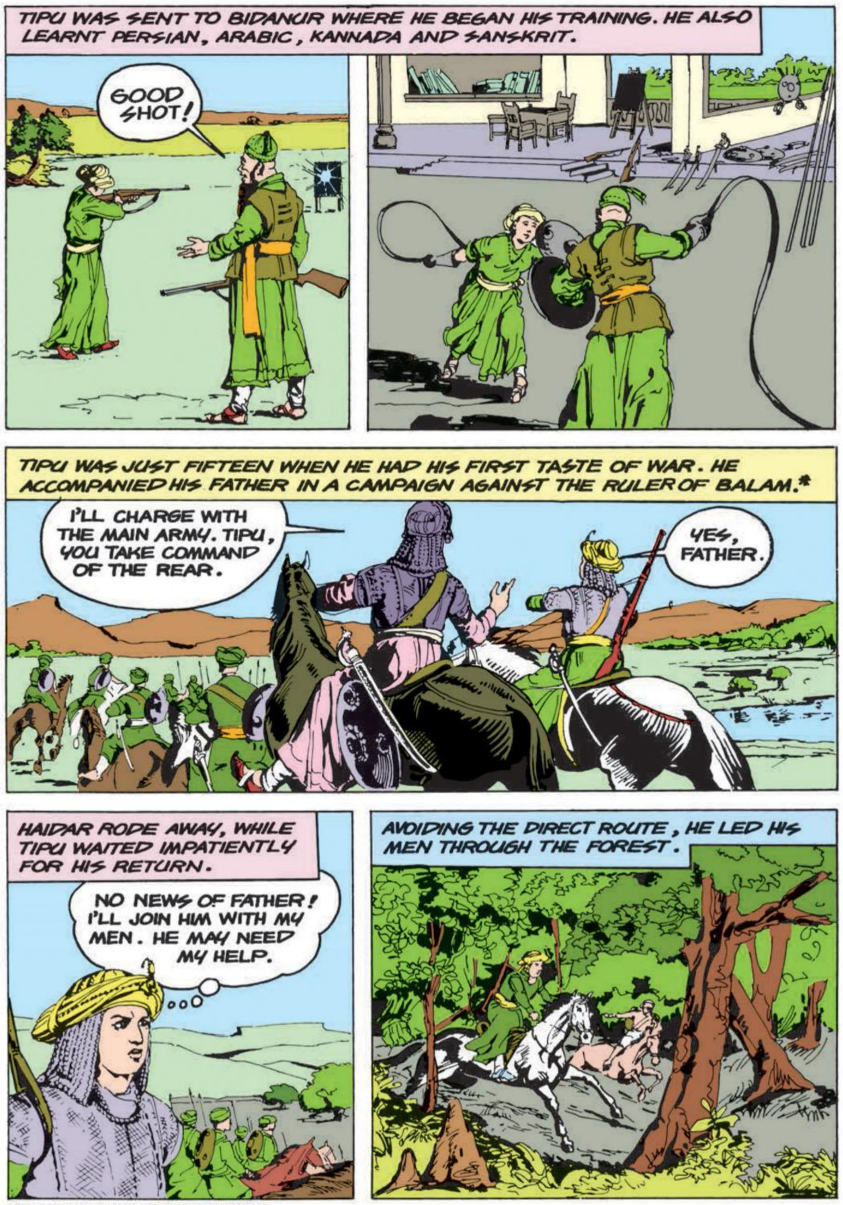
FATHER, WHO ARE THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL THE ENEMIES YOU HAVE FOUGHT?
THE BRITISH ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS ENEMIES OF MYSORE — AND OF HINDUSTAN.


AND I WILL DRIVE THEM OUT OF INDIA WITH ALLAH'S HELP.
TIPU SOLEMNLY PROMISED HIS FATHER.
AND I WILL HELP YOU, FATHER. COUNT ON ME.
WHEN TIPU WAS TEN YEARS OLD, HAIDAR LEFT FOR THE CAPITAL, SRIRANGA PATTANA, TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE STATE ARMY.
AT THE CAPITAL HAIDAR FORCED THE DALWAI,* NANJARAJ, TO RETIRE AND ASSUMED THE POST HIMSELF. BUT HIS SUCCESS WAS SHORT-LIVED. TROUBLE CAME FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER.
MY LORD! KHANDE RAO HAS TAKEN CHARGE OF THE FORT!
KHANDE RAO? MY FRIEND HAS BETRAYED ME!

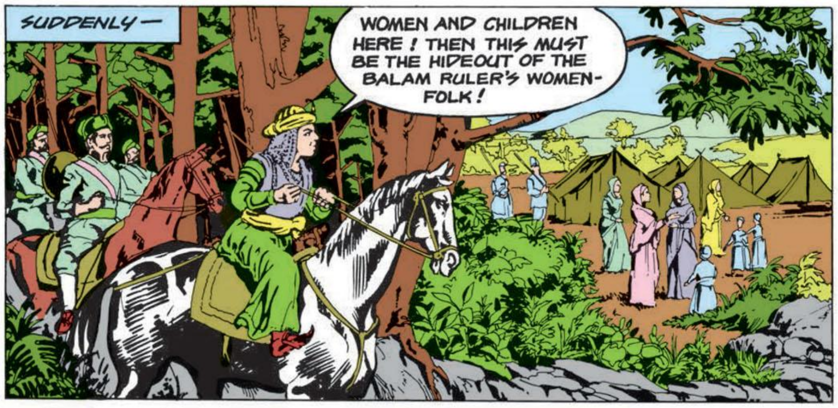
* CHIEF MINISTER

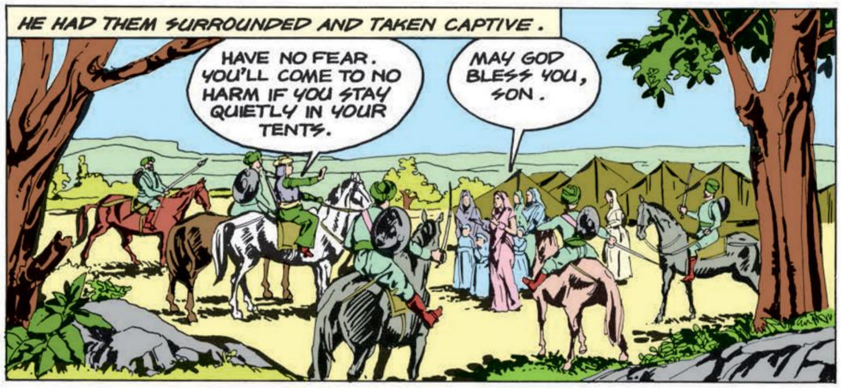

WHEN HAIDAR'S WIFE CAME TO KNOW OF KHANDE RAO'S TREACHERY —
YOU HAD BETTER ESCAPE NOW, BEFORE YOU ARE CAPTURED.
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU AT THE MERCY OF KHANDE RAO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, FATHER. I'LL LOOK AFTER MOTHER. YOU GO NOW AND COME BACK WITH A BIG ARMY TO DEFEAT KHANDE RAO.
HAIDAR LEFT RELUCTANTLY.
SECONDS AFTER THIS, KHANDE RAO'S SOLDIERS RODE UP.
STOP! ANYONE WHO DARES CROSS THIS THRESHOLD WILL PAY WITH HIS LIFE!

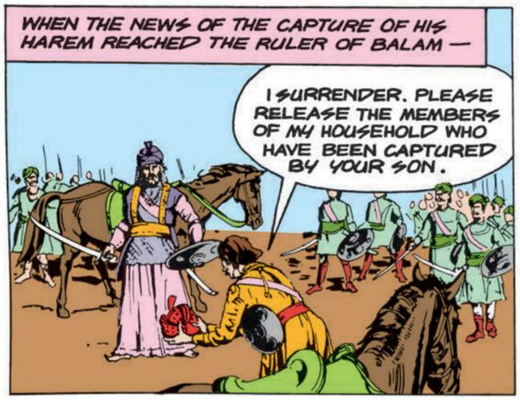

KHANDE RAO, WHO HAD JUST COME, SAW THIS.
MOVE ON — ALL OF YOU! EVEN IN CAPTIVITY A TIGER SHOULD NOT BE TRIFLED WITH.
KHANDE RAO TOOK HAIDAR'S FAMILY INTO THE FORT AS CAPTIVES, BUT HE TREATED THEM WELL.
HAIDAR SOON RETURNED WITH A STRONG ARMY AND DEFEATED KHANDE RAO.
PUT THIS TRAITOR INTO THE DUNGEONS.
ALTHOUGH HAIDAR WAS NOW VIRTUALLY THE RULER, HE CONTINUED TO PAY RESPECT TO THE TITULAR KING. HIS IMMEDIATE TASK WAS TO STRENGTHEN THE ARMY.
FATHER, I WOULD LIKE TO FIGHT BY YOUR SIDE. MAY I?
YES, MY SON. BUT YOU MUST FIRST RECEIVE TRAINING.

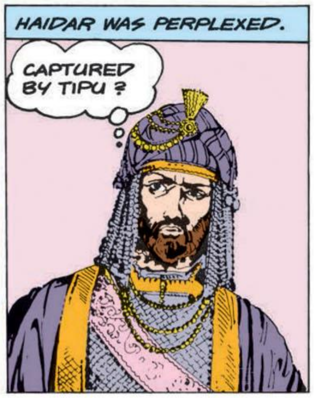

TIPU WAS SENT TO BIDANUR WHERE HE BEGAN HIS TRAINING. HE ALSO LEARNT PERSIAN, ARABIC, KANNADA AND SANSKRIT.
GOOD SHOT!
TIPU WAS JUST FIFTEEN WHEN HE HAD HIS FIRST TASTE OF WAR. HE ACCOMPANIED HIS FATHER IN A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE RULER OF BALAM.*
I'LL CHARGE WITH THE MAIN ARMY. TIPU, YOU TAKE COMMAND OF THE REAR.
YES, FATHER.
HAIDAR RODE AWAY, WHILE TIPU WAITED IMPATIENTLY FOR HIS RETURN.
NO NEWS OF FATHER! I'LL JOIN HIM WITH MY MEN. HE MAY NEED MY HELP.
AVOIDING THE DIRECT ROUTE, HE LED HIS MEN THROUGH THE FOREST.

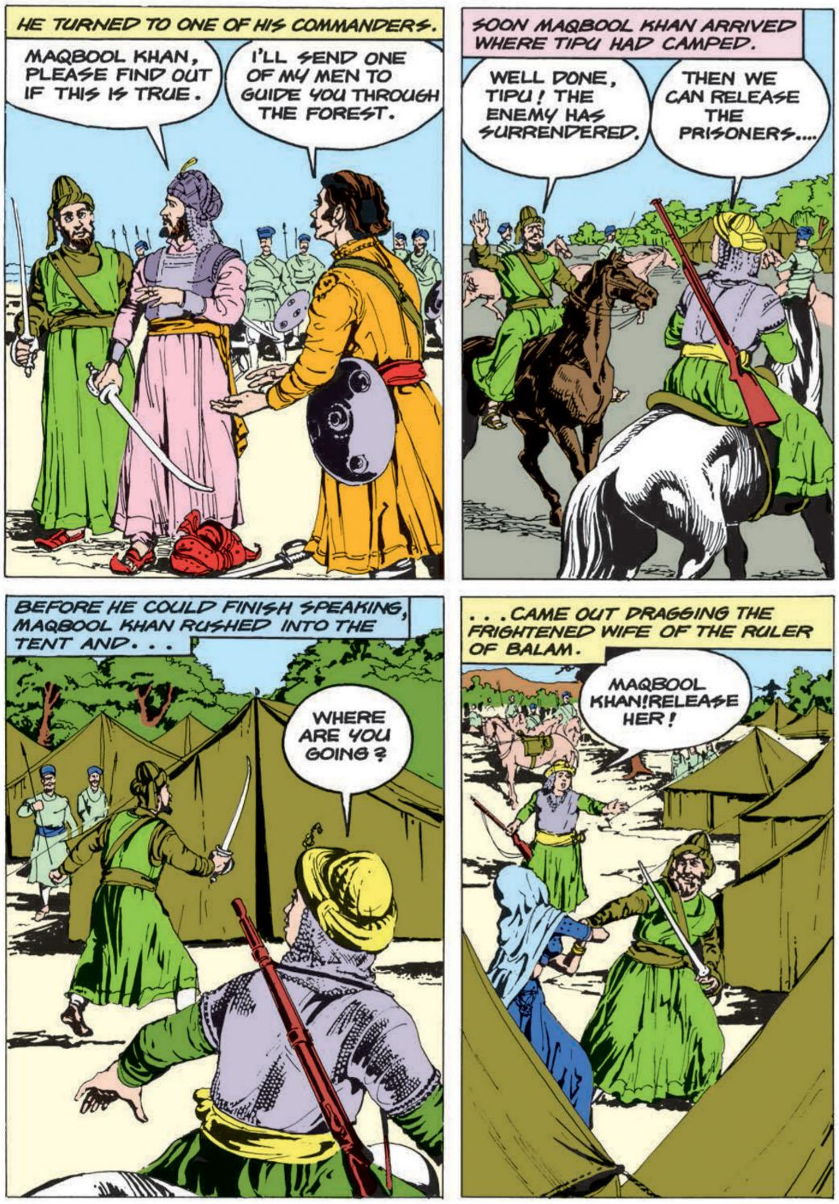
* SITUATED ON THE BORDER OF COORS

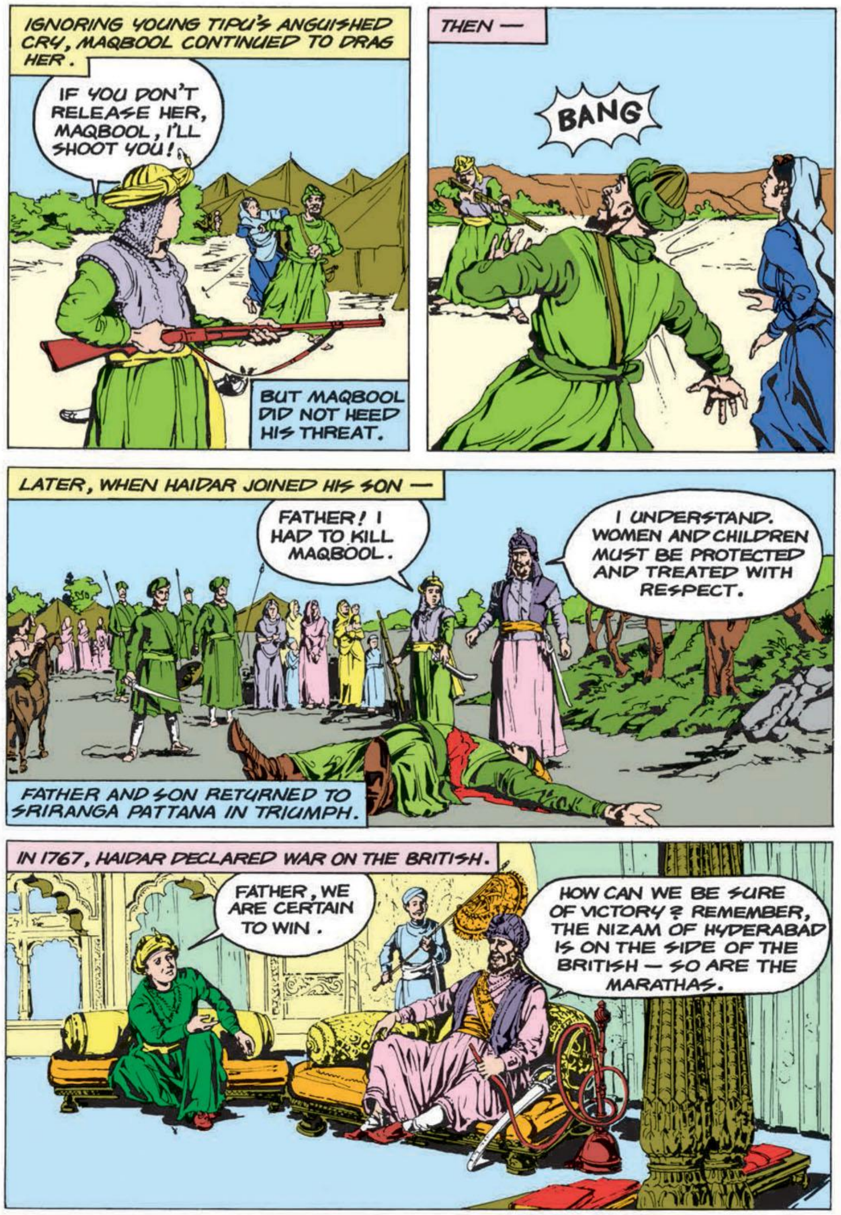

SUDDENLY —
WOMEN AND CHILDREN HERE ! THEN THIS MUST BE THE HIDEOUT OF THE BALAM RULER'S WOMEN-FOLK !

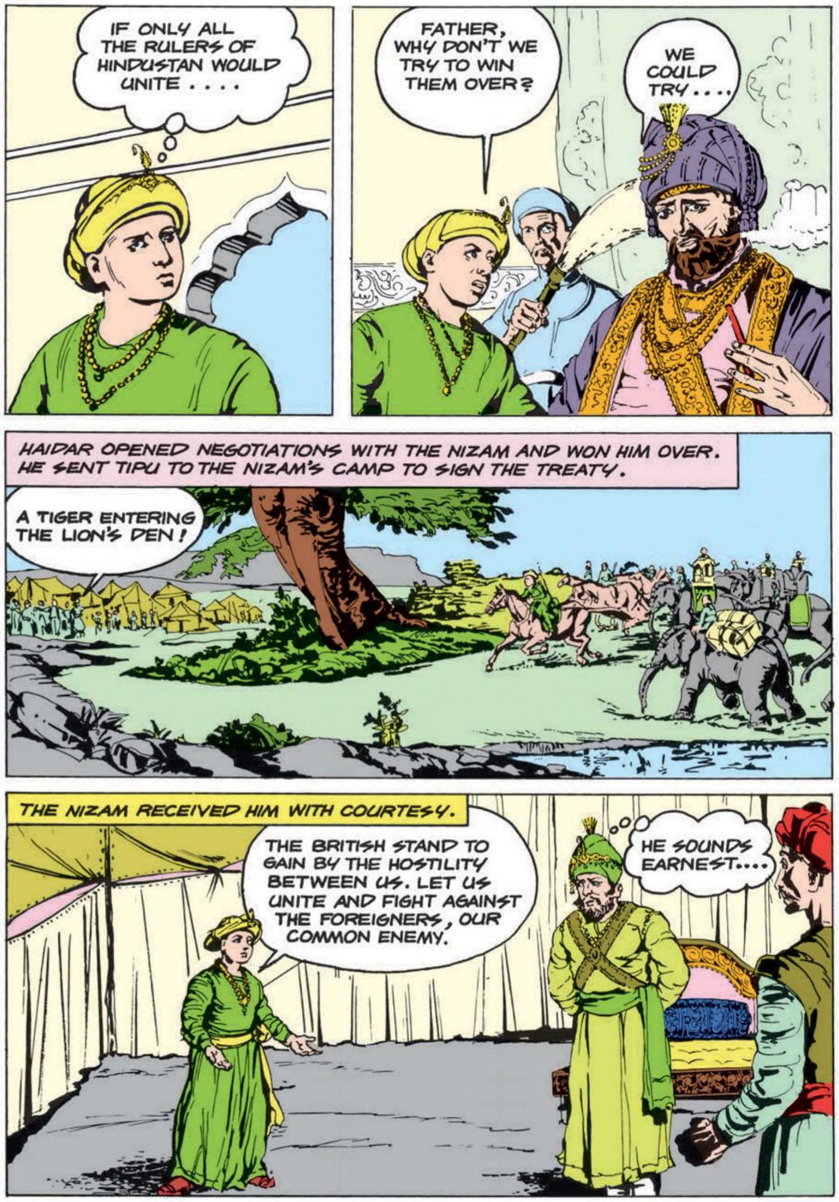

HE HAD THEM SURROUNDED AND TAKEN CAPTIVE .
HAVE NO FEAR. YOU'LL COME TO NO HARM IF YOU STAY QUIETLY IN YOUR TENTS.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, SON .

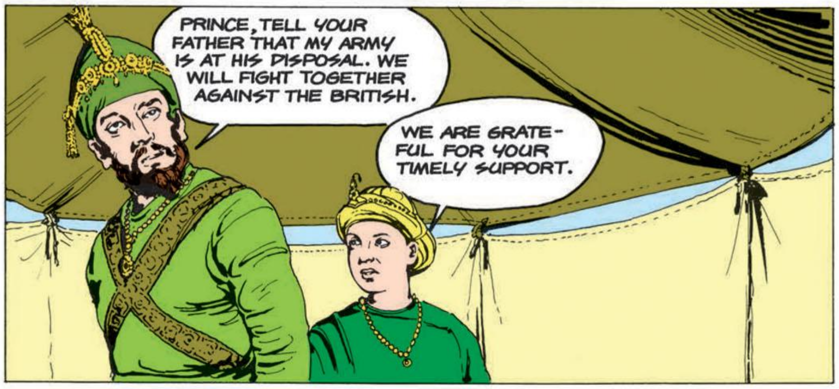

WHEN THE NEWS OF THE CAPTURE OF HIS HAREM REACHED THE RULER OF BALAM —
I SURRENDER. PLEASE RELEASE THE MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD WHO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY YOUR SON .

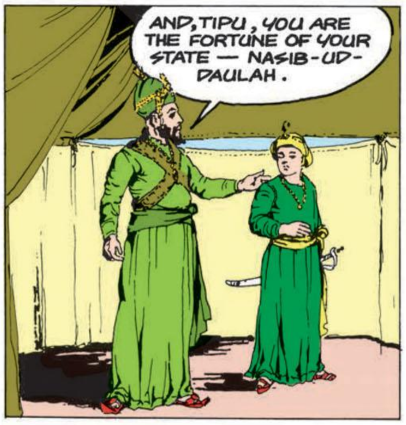

HAIDAR WAS PERPLEXED.
CAPTURED BY TIPU ?

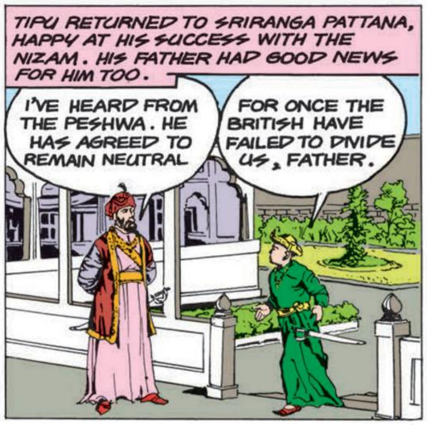

HE TURNED TO ONE OF HIS COMMANDERS.
MAQBOOL KHAN, PLEASE FIND OUT IF THIS IS TRUE.
I'LL SEND ONE OF MY MEN TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE FOREST.
SOON MAQBOOL KHAN ARRIVED WHERE TIPU HAD CAMPED.
WELL DONE, TIPU! THE ENEMY HAS SURRENDERED.
THEN WE CAN RELEASE THE PRISONERS....
BEFORE HE COULD FINISH SPEAKING, MAQBOOL KHAN RUSHED INTO THE TENT AND...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
...CAME OUT DRAGGING THE FRIGHTENED WIFE OF THE RULER OF BALAM.
MAQBOOL KHAN! RELEASE HER!


IGNORING YOUNG TIPU'S ANGUISHED CRY, MAQBOOL CONTINUED TO DRAG HER.
IF YOU DON'T RELEASE HER, MAQBOOL, I'LL SHOOT YOU!
BUT MAQBOOL DID NOT HEED HIS THREAT.
THEN —
BANG
LATER, WHEN HAIDAR JOINED HIS SON —
FATHER! I HAD TO KILL MAQBOOL.
I UNDERSTAND. WOMEN AND CHILDREN MUST BE PROTECTED AND TREATED WITH RESPECT.
FATHER AND SON RETURNED TO SRIRANGA PATTANA IN TRIUMPH.
IN 1767, HAIDAR DECLARED WAR ON THE BRITISH.
FATHER, WE ARE CERTAIN TO WIN.
HOW CAN WE BE SURE OF VICTORY? REMEMBER, THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD IS ON THE SIDE OF THE BRITISH — SO ARE THE MARATHAS.

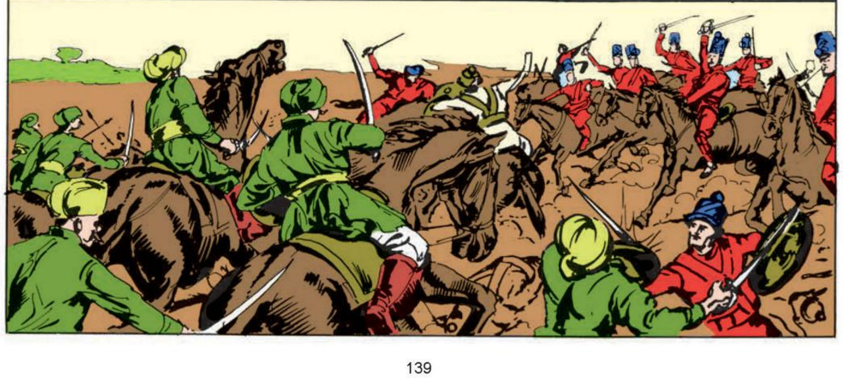

IF ONLY ALL THE RULERS OF HINDUSTAN WOULD UNITE . . . .
FATHER, WHY DON'T WE TRY TO WIN THEM OVER?
WE COULD TRY . . . .
HAIDAR OPENED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NIZAM AND WON HIM OVER. HE SENT TIPU TO THE NIZAM'S CAMP TO SIGN THE TREATY.
A TIGER ENTERING THE LION'S DEN!
THE NIZAM RECEIVED HIM WITH COURTESY.
THE BRITISH STAND TO GAIN BY THE HOSTILITY BETWEEN US. LET US UNITE AND FIGHT AGAINST THE FOREIGNERS, OUR COMMON ENEMY.
HE SOUNDS EARNEST . . . .

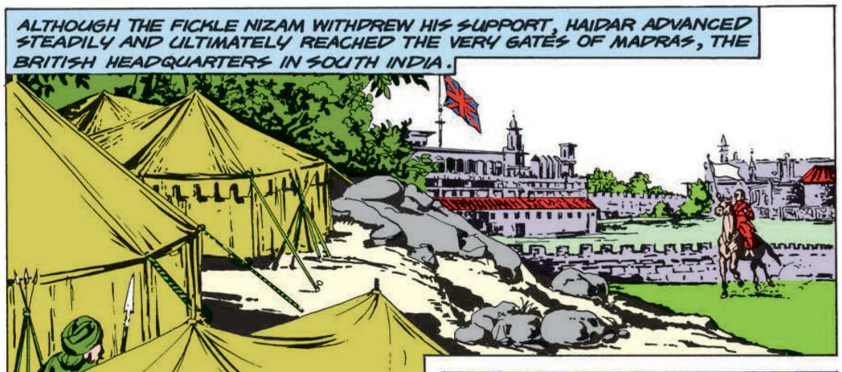

PRINCE, TELL YOUR FATHER THAT MY ARMY IS AT HIS DISPOSAL. WE WILL FIGHT TOGETHER AGAINST THE BRITISH.
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR TIMELY SUPPORT.

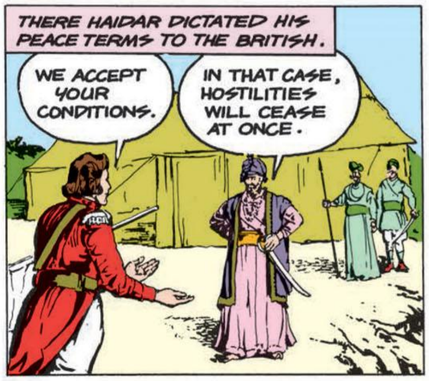

AND, TIPU, YOU ARE THE FORTUNE OF YOUR STATE — NASIB-UD-DAULAH.

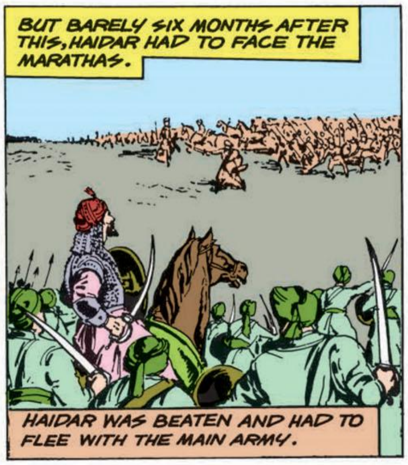

TIPU RETURNED TO SRIRANGA PATTANA, HAPPY AT HIS SUCCESS WITH THE NIZAM. HIS FATHER HAD GOOD NEWS FOR HIM TOO.
I'VE HEARD FROM THE PESHWA. HE HAS AGREED TO REMAIN NEUTRAL
FOR ONCE THE BRITISH HAVE FAILED TO DIVIDE US, FATHER.

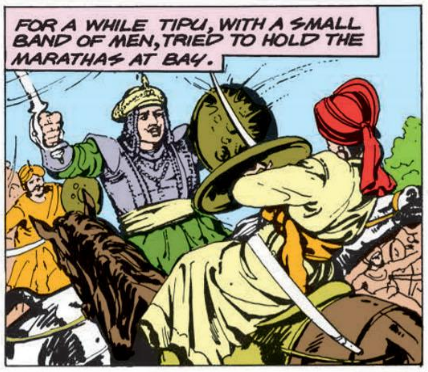
A FIERCE WAR WHICH WENT ON FOR TWO YEARS ENSUED WITH THE BRITISH.

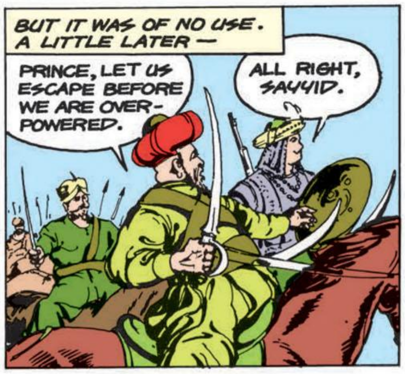


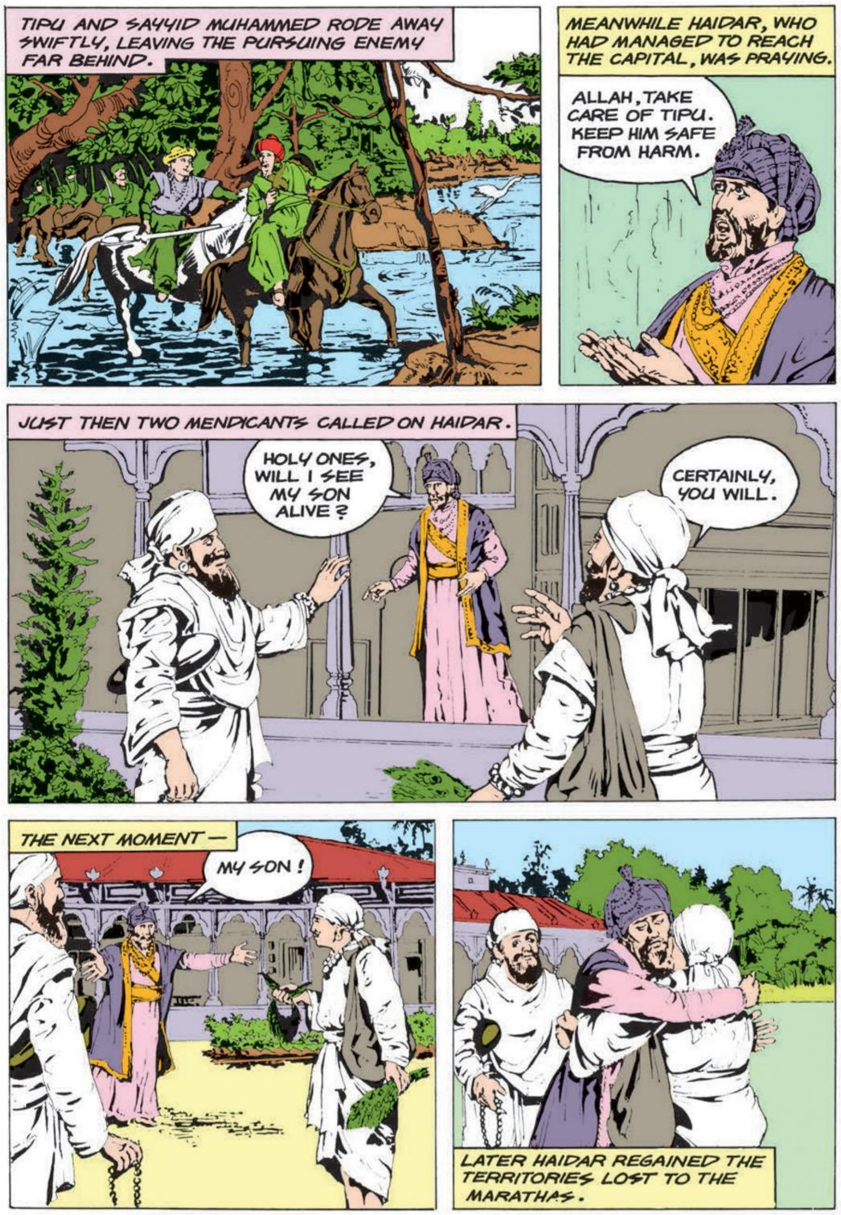

ALTHOUGH THE FICKLE NIZAM WITHDREW HIS SUPPORT, HAIDAR ADVANCED STEADILY AND ULTIMATELY REACHED THE VERY GATES OF MADRAS, THE BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN SOUTH INDIA.

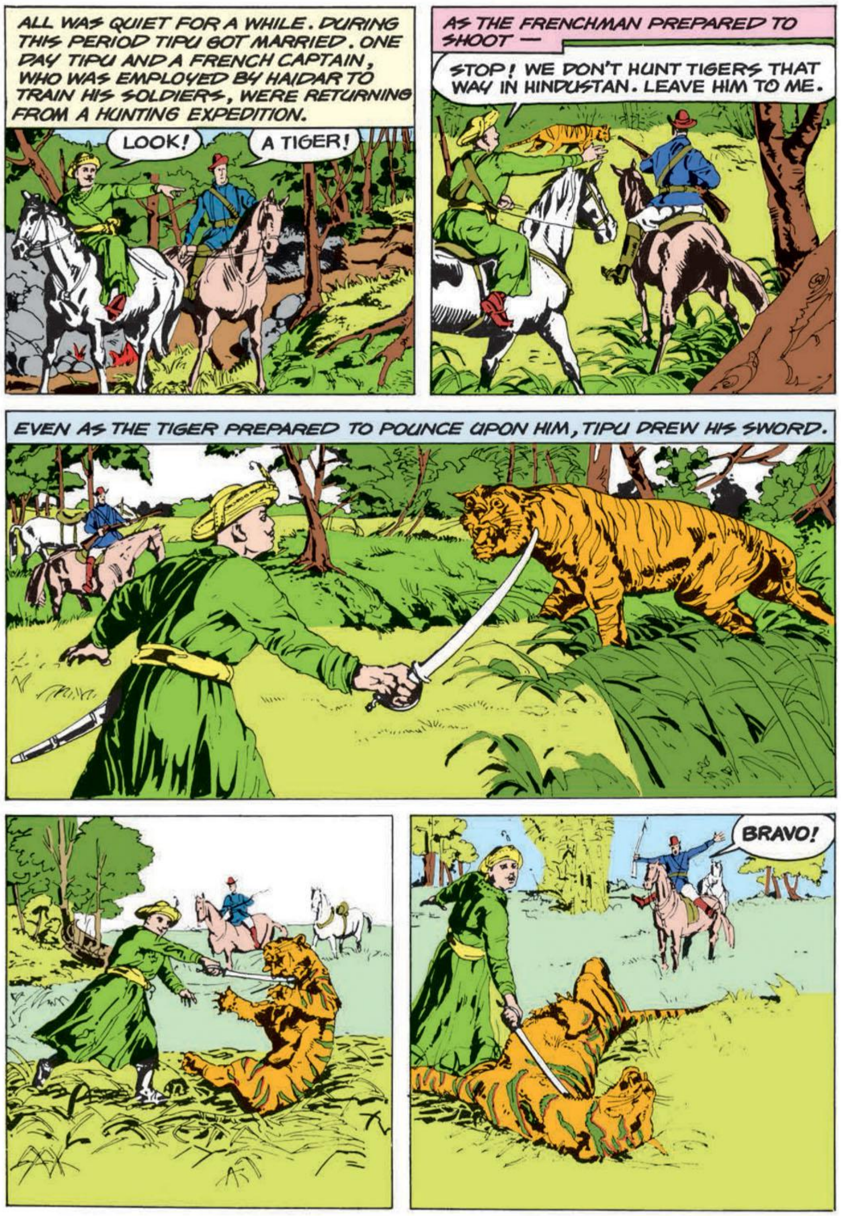

THERE HAIDAR DICTATED HIS PEACE TERMS TO THE BRITISH.
WE ACCEPT YOUR CONDITIONS.
IN THAT CASE, HOSTILITIES WILL CEASE AT ONCE.


BUT BARELY SIX MONTHS AFTER THIS, HAIDAR HAD TO FACE THE MARATHAS.
HAIDAR WAS BEATEN AND HAD TO FLEE WITH THE MAIN ARMY.

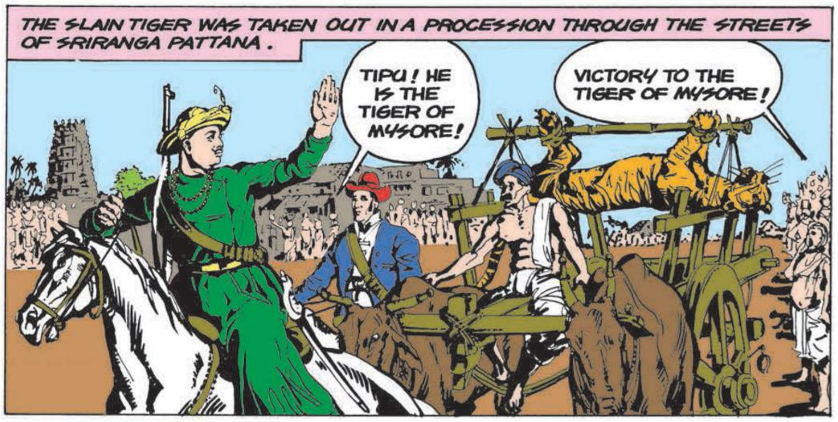

FOR A WHILE TIPU, WITH A SMALL BAND OF MEN, TRIED TO HOLD THE MARATHAS AT BAY.

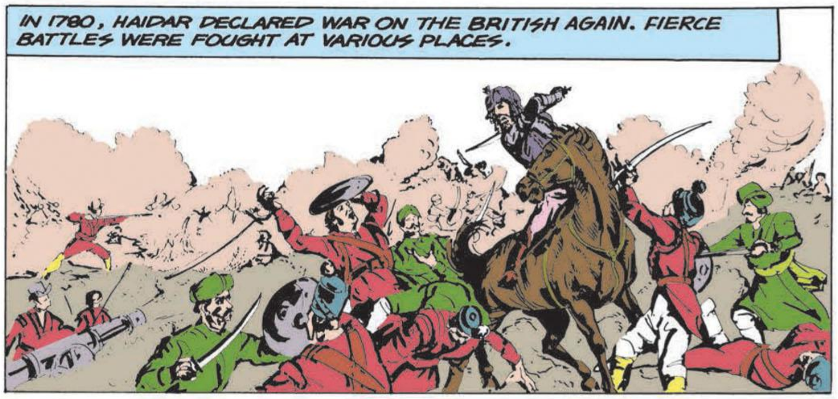

BUT IT WAS OF NO USE. A LITTLE LATER —
PRINCE, LET US ESCAPE BEFORE WE ARE OVER-POWERED.
ALL RIGHT, SAYYID.

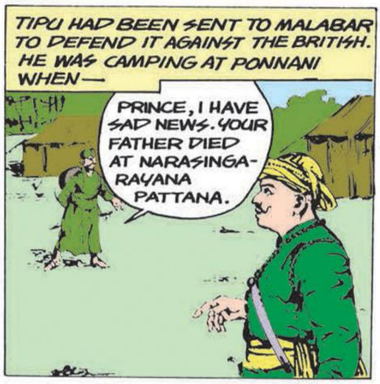

TIPU AND SAYYID MUHAMMED RODE AWAY SWIFTLY, LEAVING THE PURSUING ENEMY FAR BEHIND.
MEANWHILE HAIDAR, WHO HAD MANAGED TO REACH THE CAPITAL, WAS PRAYING.
ALLAH, TAKE CARE OF TIPU. KEEP HIM SAFE FROM HARM.
JUST THEN TWO MENDICANTS CALLED ON HAIDAR.
HOLY ONES, WILL I SEE MY SON ALIVE?
CERTAINLY, YOU WILL.
THE NEXT MOMENT —
MY SON!
LATER HAIDAR REGAINED THE TERRITORIES LOST TO THE MARATHAS.

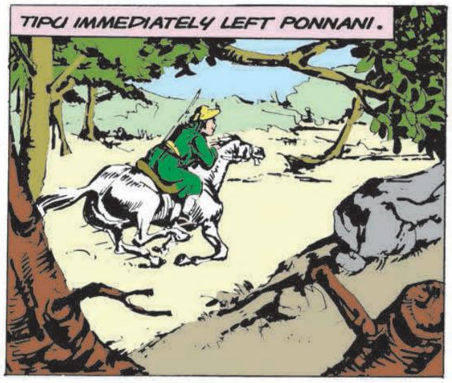


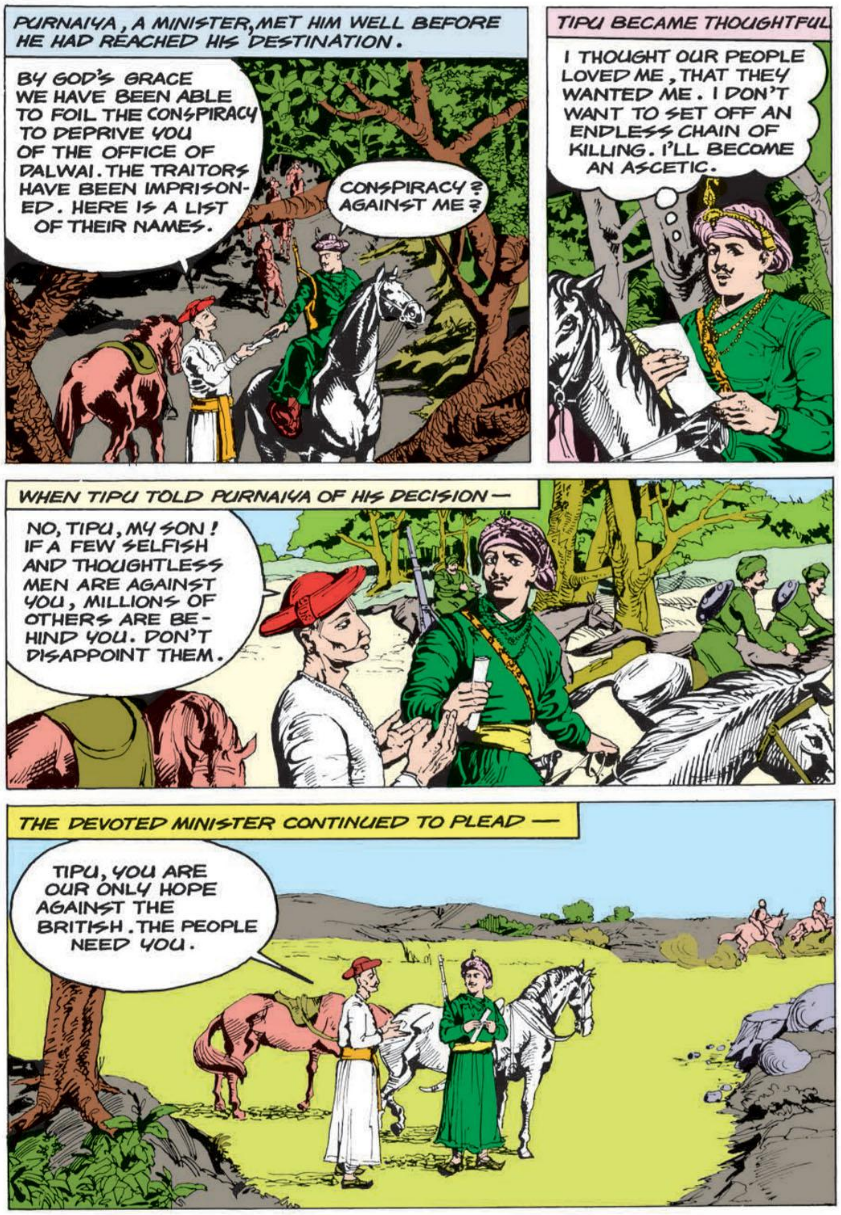
ALL WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE. DURING THIS PERIOD TIPU GOT MARRIED. ONE DAY TIPU AND A FRENCH CAPTAIN, WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY HAIDAR TO TRAIN HIS SOLDIERS, WERE RETURNING FROM A HUNTING EXPEDITION.
LOOK!
A TIGER!
AS THE FRENCHMAN PREPARED TO SHOOT —
STOP! WE DON'T HUNT TIGERS THAT WAY IN HINDUSTAN. LEAVE HIM TO ME.
EVEN AS THE TIGER PREPARED TO POUNCE UPON HIM, TIPU DREW HIS SWORD.
BRAVO!

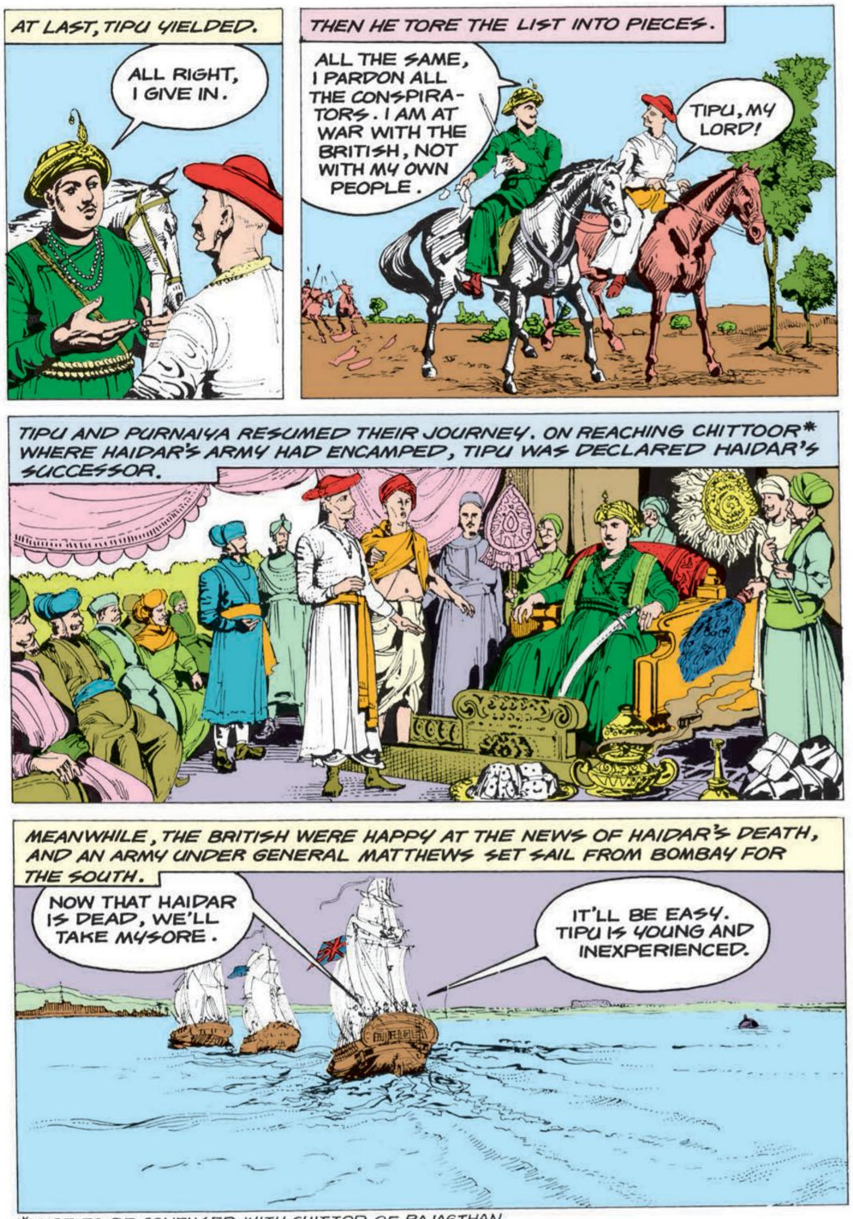

THE SLAIN TIGER WAS TAKEN OUT IN A PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS OF SRIRANGA PATTANA.
TIPU! HE IS THE TIGER OF MYSORE!
VICTORY TO THE TIGER OF MYSORE!


IN 1780, HAIDAR DECLARED WAR ON THE BRITISH AGAIN. FIERCE BATTLES WERE FOUGHT AT VARIOUS PLACES.

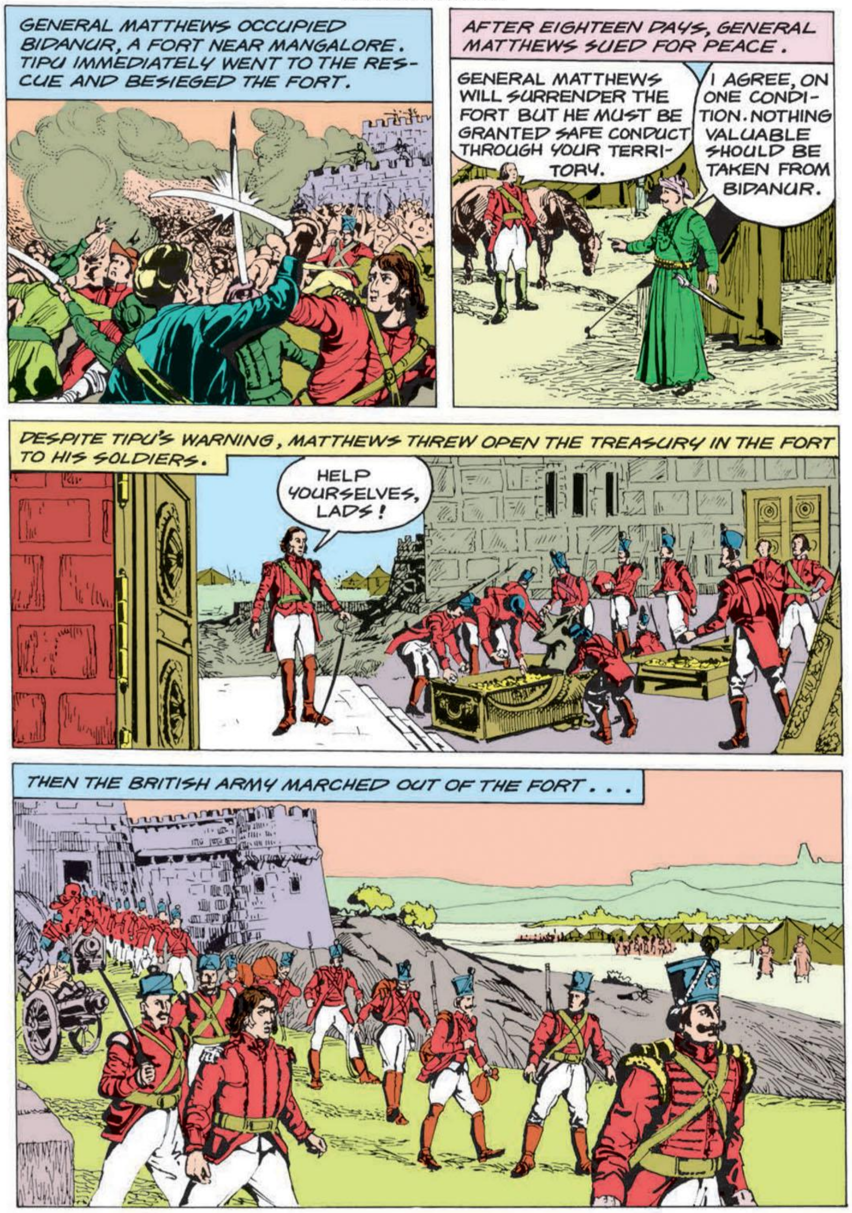

TIPU HAD BEEN SENT TO MALABAR TO DEFEND IT AGAINST THE BRITISH. HE WAS CAMPING AT PONNANI WHEN—
PRINCE, I HAVE SAD NEWS. YOUR FATHER DIED AT NARASINGA-RAYANA PATTANA.

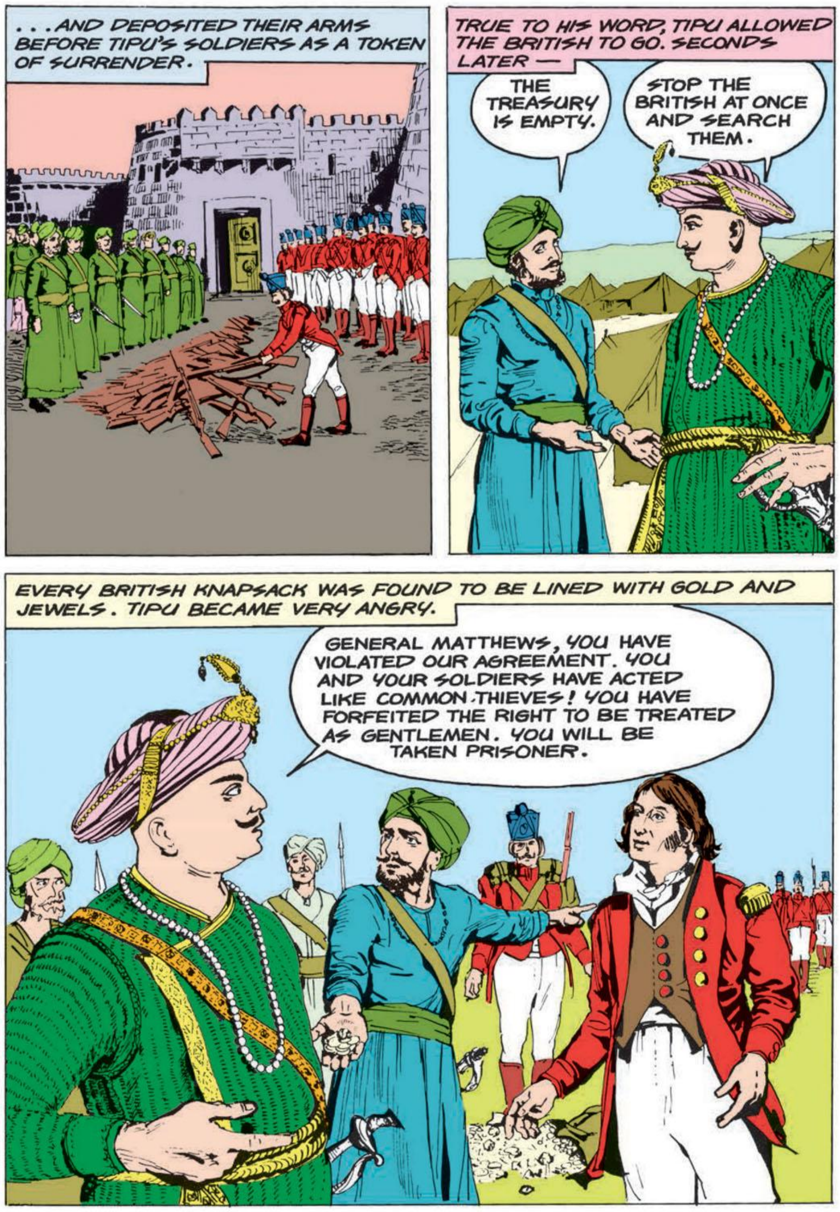

TIPU IMMEDIATELY LEFT PONNANI.

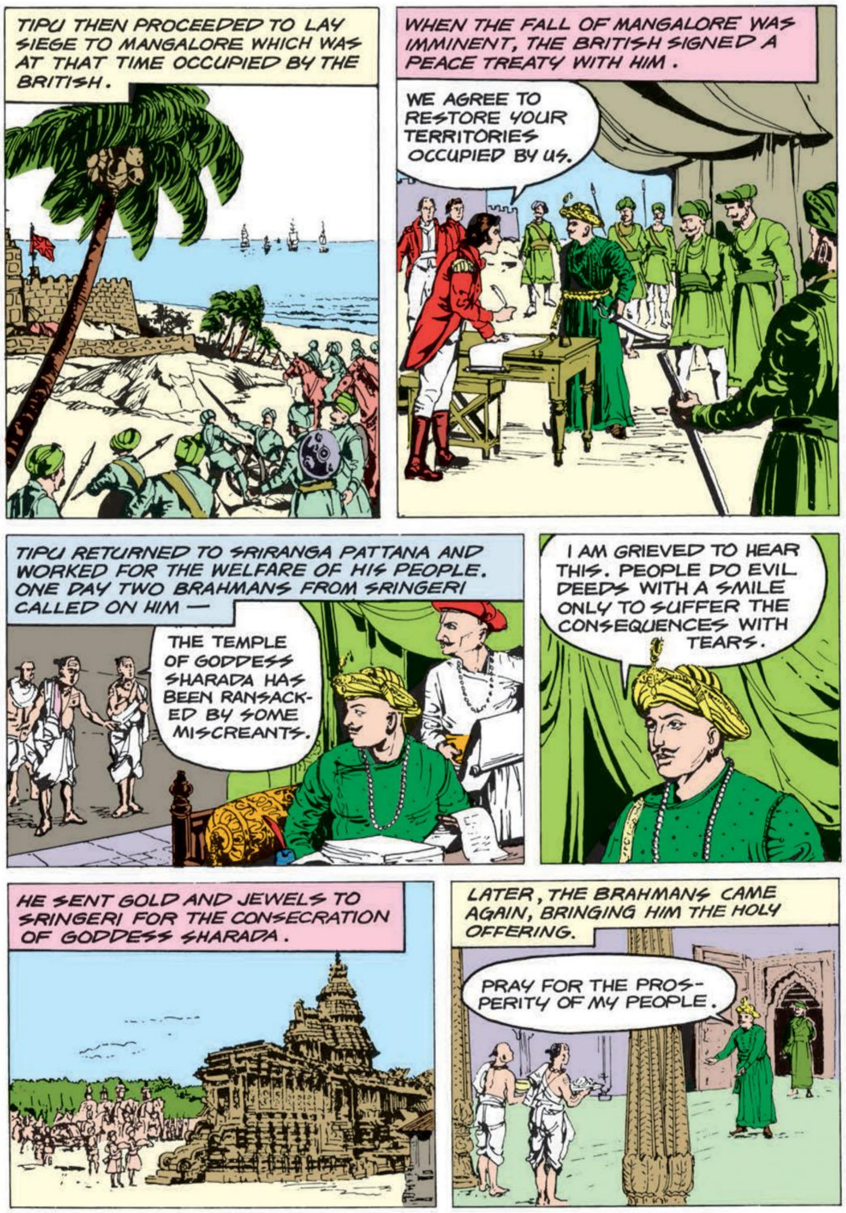

PURNAIYA, A MINISTER, MET HIM WELL BEFORE HE HAD REACHED HIS DESTINATION.
BY GOD'S GRACE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FOIL THE CONSPIRACY TO DEPRIVE YOU OF THE OFFICE OF DALWAI. THE TRAITORS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED. HERE IS A LIST OF THEIR NAMES.
CONSPIRACY? AGAINST ME?
TIPU BECAME THOUGHTFUL
I THOUGHT OUR PEOPLE LOVED ME, THAT THEY WANTED ME. I DON'T WANT TO SET OFF AN ENDLESS CHAIN OF KILLING. I'LL BECOME AN ASCETIC.
WHEN TIPU TOLD PURNAIYA OF HIS DECISION—
NO, TIPU, MY SON! IF A FEW SELFISH AND THOUGHTLESS MEN ARE AGAINST YOU, MILLIONS OF OTHERS ARE BEHIND YOU. DON'T DISAPPOINT THEM.
THE DEVOTED MINISTER CONTINUED TO PLEAD—
TIPU, YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE AGAINST THE BRITISH. THE PEOPLE NEED YOU.

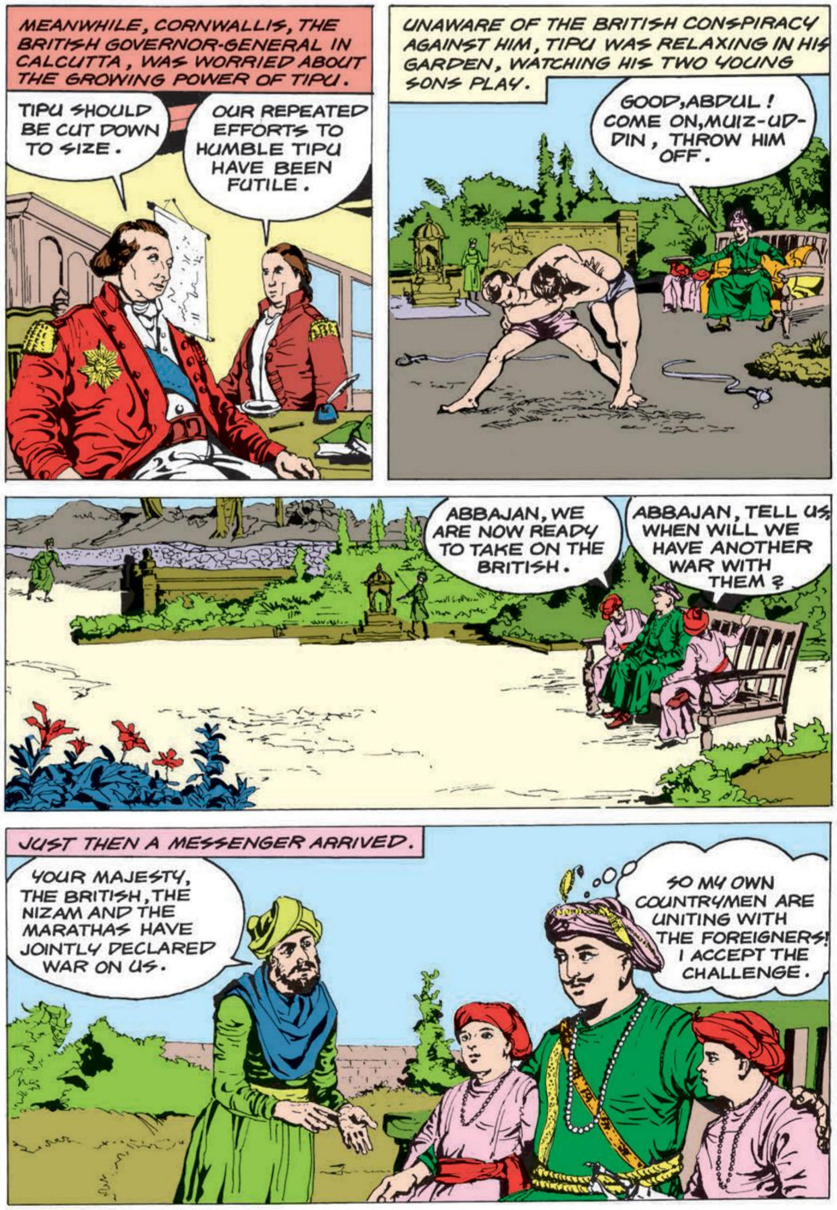

AT LAST, TIPU YIELDED.
ALL RIGHT, I GIVE IN.
THEN HE TORE THE LIST INTO PIECES.
ALL THE SAME, I PARDON ALL THE CONSPIRATORS. I AM AT WAR WITH THE BRITISH, NOT WITH MY OWN PEOPLE.
TIPU, MY LORD!
TIPU AND PURNAIYA RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY. ON REACHING CHITTOOR* WHERE HAIDAR'S ARMY HAD ENCAMPED, TIPU WAS DECLARED HAIDAR'S SUCCESSOR.
MEANWHILE, THE BRITISH WERE HAPPY AT THE NEWS OF HAIDAR'S DEATH, AND AN ARMY UNDER GENERAL MATTHEWS SET SAIL FROM BOMBAY FOR THE SOUTH.
NOW THAT HAIDAR IS DEAD, WE'LL TAKE MYSORE.
IT'LL BE EASY. TIPU IS YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED.

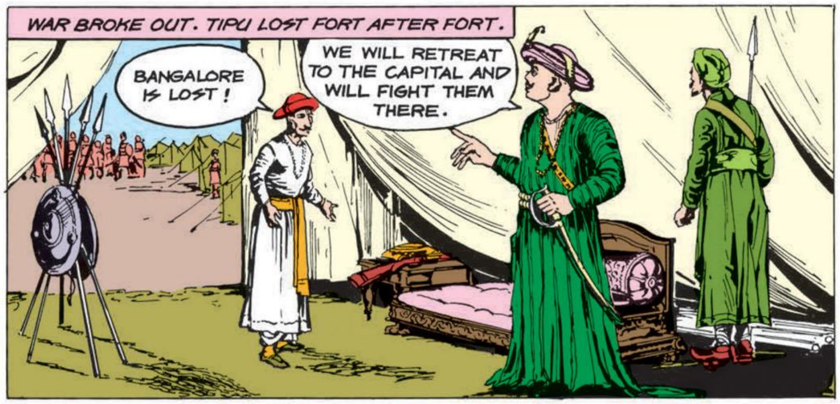
* NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH CHITTOR OF RAJASTHAN.

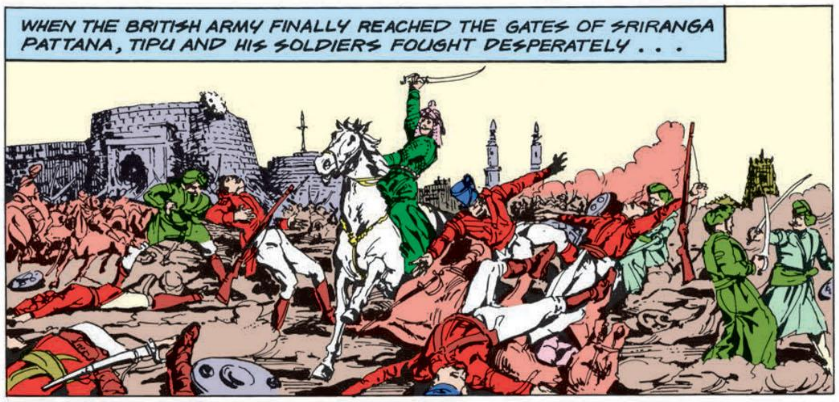

GENERAL MATTHEWS OCCUPIED BIDANUR, A FORT NEAR MANGALORE. TIPU IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE RESCUE AND BESIEGED THE FORT.
AFTER EIGHTEEN DAYS, GENERAL MATTHEWS SUED FOR PEACE.
GENERAL MATTHEWS WILL SURRENDER THE FORT BUT HE MUST BE GRANTED SAFE CONDUCT THROUGH YOUR TERRITORY.
I AGREE, ON ONE CONDITION. NOTHING VALUABLE SHOULD BE TAKEN FROM BIDANUR.
DESPITE TIPU'S WARNING, MATTHEWS THREW OPEN THE TREASURY IN THE FORT TO HIS SOLDIERS.
HELP YOURSELVES, LADS!
THEN THE BRITISH ARMY MARCHED OUT OF THE FORT . . .

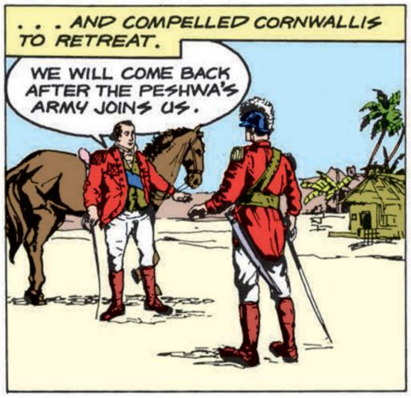

. . . AND DEPOSITED THEIR ARMS BEFORE TIPU'S SOLDIERS AS A TOKEN OF SURRENDER.
TRUE TO HIS WORD, TIPU ALLOWED THE BRITISH TO GO. SECONDS LATER —
THE TREASURY IS EMPTY.
STOP THE BRITISH AT ONCE AND SEARCH THEM.
EVERY BRITISH KNAPSACK WAS FOUND TO BE LINED WITH GOLD AND JEWELS. TIPU BECAME VERY ANGRY.
GENERAL MATTHEWS, YOU HAVE VIOLATED OUR AGREEMENT. YOU AND YOUR SOLDIERS HAVE ACTED LIKE COMMON THIEVES! YOU HAVE FORFEITED THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED AS GENTLEMEN. YOU WILL BE TAKEN PRISONER.

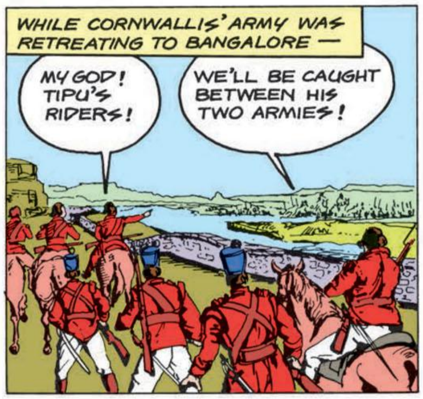

TIPU THEN PROCEEDED TO LAY SIEGE TO MANGALORE WHICH WAS AT THAT TIME OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH.
WHEN THE FALL OF MANGALORE WAS IMMINENT, THE BRITISH SIGNED A PEACE TREATY WITH HIM.
WE AGREE TO RESTORE YOUR TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY US.
TIPU RETURNED TO SRIRANGA PATTANA AND WORKED FOR THE WELFARE OF HIS PEOPLE. ONE DAY TWO BRAHMANS FROM SRINGERI CALLED ON HIM —
THE TEMPLE OF GODDESS SHARADA HAS BEEN RANSACKED BY SOME MISCREANTS.
I AM GRIEVED TO HEAR THIS. PEOPLE DO EVIL DEEDS WITH A SMILE ONLY TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES WITH TEARS.
HE SENT GOLD AND JEWELS TO SRINGERI FOR THE CONSECRATION OF GODDESS SHARADA.
LATER, THE BRAHMANS CAME AGAIN, BRINGING HIM THE HOLY OFFERING.
PRAY FOR THE PROSPERITY OF MY PEOPLE.

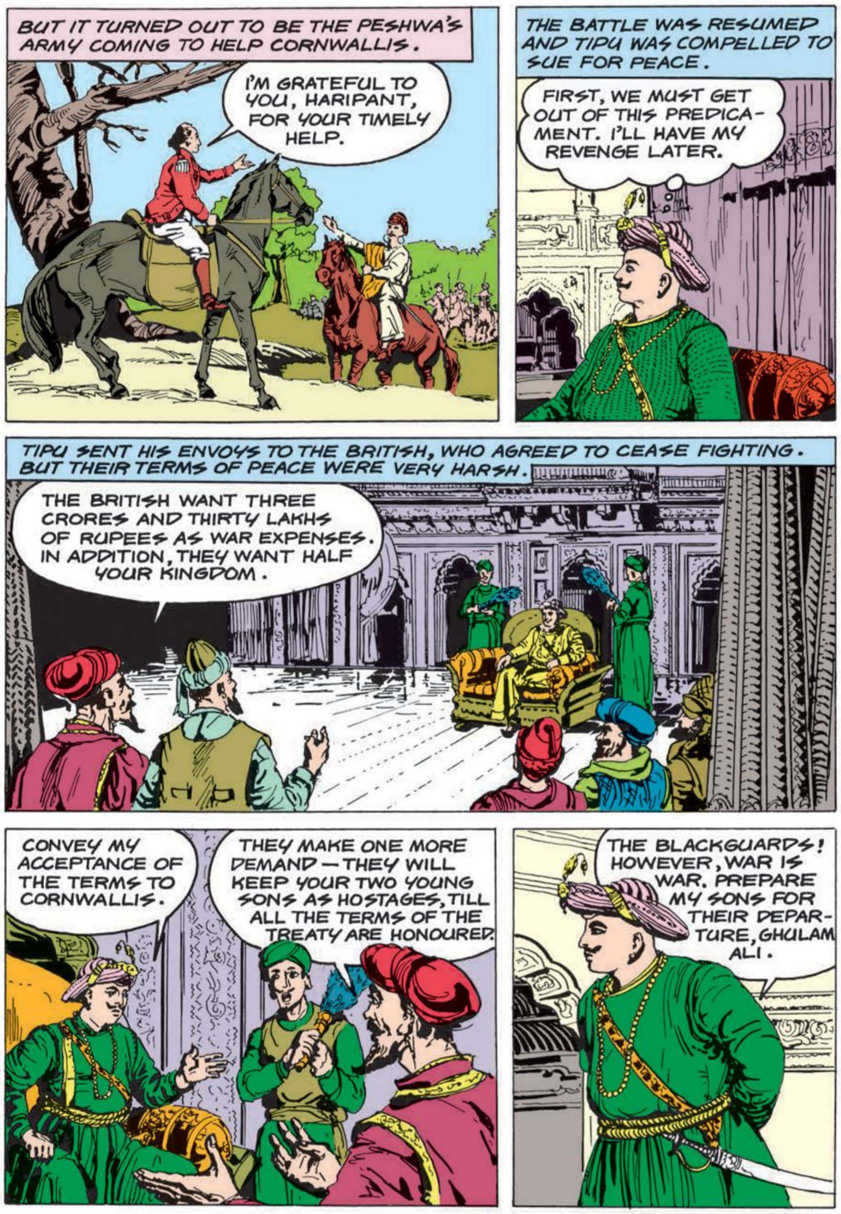

MEANWHILE, CORNWALLIS, THE BRITISH GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CALCUTTA, WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE GROWING POWER OF TIPU.
TIPU SHOULD BE CUT DOWN TO SIZE.
OUR REPEATED EFFORTS TO HUMBLE TIPU HAVE BEEN FUTILE.
UNAWARE OF THE BRITISH CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIM, TIPU WAS RELAXING IN HIS GARDEN, WATCHING HIS TWO YOUNG SONS PLAY.
GOOD, ABDUL! COME ON, MUIZ-UD-DIN, THROW HIM OFF.
ABBAJAN, WE ARE NOW READY TO TAKE ON THE BRITISH.
ABBAJAN, TELL US WHEN WILL WE HAVE ANOTHER WAR WITH THEM?
JUST THEN A MESSENGER ARRIVED.
YOUR MAJESTY, THE BRITISH, THE NIZAM AND THE MARATHAS HAVE JOINTLY DECLARED WAR ON US.
SO MY OWN COUNTRYMEN ARE UNITING WITH THE FOREIGNERS! I ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE.

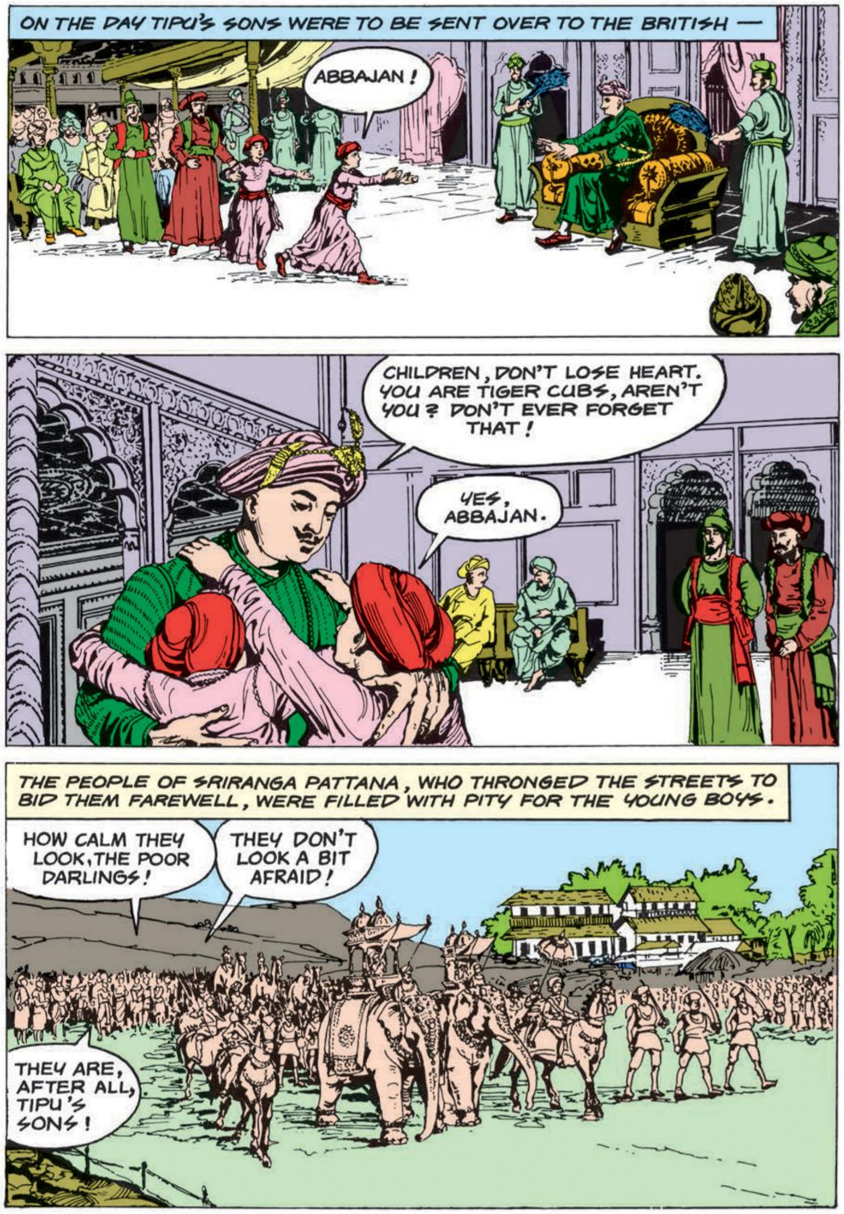

WAR BROKE OUT. TIPU LOST FORT AFTER FORT.
BANGALORE IS LOST!
WE WILL RETREAT TO THE CAPITAL AND WILL FIGHT THEM THERE.

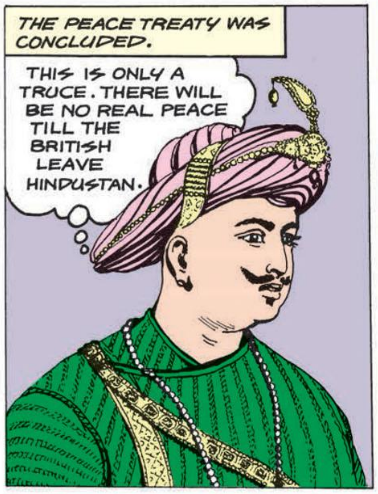

WHEN THE BRITISH ARMY FINALLY REACHED THE GATES OF SRIRANGA PATTANA, TIPU AND HIS SOLDIERS FOUGHT DESPERATELY . . .

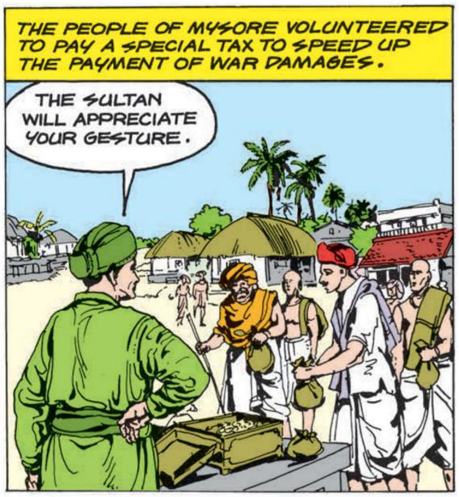

. . . AND COMPELLED CORNWALLIS TO RETREAT.
WE WILL COME BACK AFTER THE PESHWA'S ARMY JOINS US.

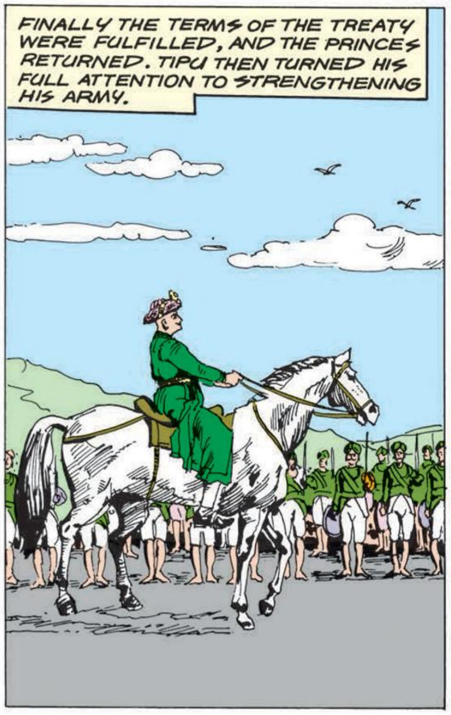

WHILE CORNWALLIS' ARMY WAS RETREATING TO BANGALORE —
MY GOD! TIPU'S RIDERS!
WE'LL BE CAUGHT BETWEEN HIS TWO ARMIES!

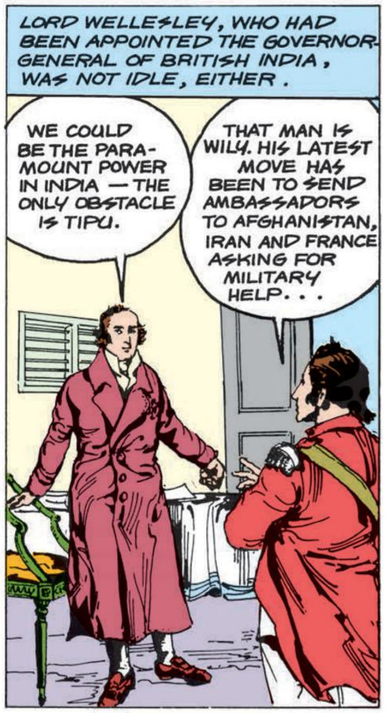

BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE THE PESHWA'S ARMY COMING TO HELP CORNWALLIS.
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, HARIPANT, FOR YOUR TIMELY HELP.
THE BATTLE WAS RESUMED AND TIPU WAS COMPELLED TO SUE FOR PEACE.
FIRST, WE MUST GET OUT OF THIS PREDICAMENT. I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE LATER.
TIPU SENT HIS ENVOYS TO THE BRITISH, WHO AGREED TO CEASE FIGHTING. BUT THEIR TERMS OF PEACE WERE VERY HARSH.
THE BRITISH WANT THREE CRORES AND THIRTY LAKHS OF RUPEES AS WAR EXPENSES. IN ADDITION, THEY WANT HALF YOUR KINGDOM.
CONVEY MY ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS TO CORNWALLIS.
THEY MAKE ONE MORE DEMAND — THEY WILL KEEP YOUR TWO YOUNG SONS AS HOSTAGES, TILL ALL THE TERMS OF THE TREATY ARE HONOURED.
THE BLACKGUARDS! HOWEVER, WAR IS WAR. PREPARE MY SONS FOR THEIR DEPARTURE, GHULAM ALI.

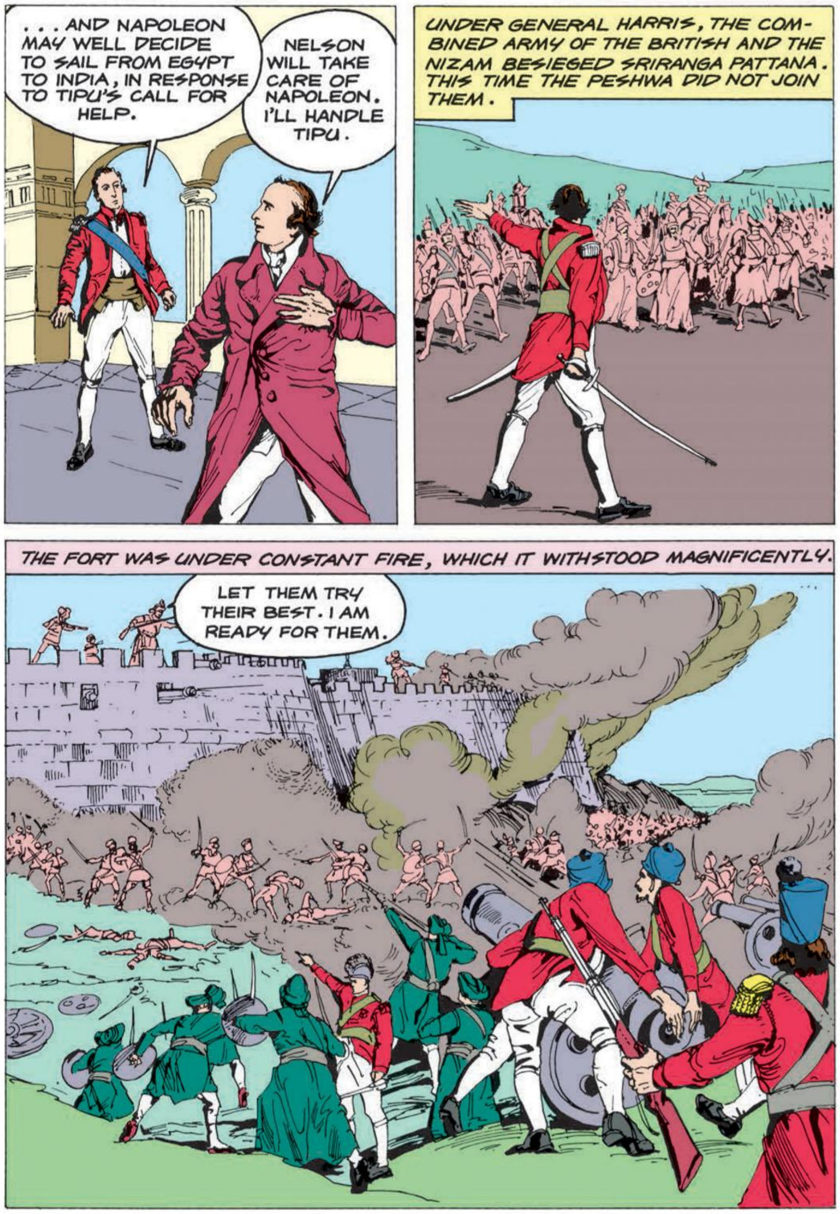

ON THE DAY TIPU'S SONS WERE TO BE SENT OVER TO THE BRITISH —
ABBAJAN!
CHILDREN, DON'T LOSE HEART. YOU ARE TIGER CUBS, AREN'T YOU? DON'T EVER FORGET THAT!
YES, ABBAJAN.
THE PEOPLE OF SRIRANGA PATTANA, WHO THRONGED THE STREETS TO BID THEM FAREWELL, WERE FILLED WITH PITY FOR THE YOUNG BOYS.
HOW CALM THEY LOOK, THE POOR DARLINGS!
THEY DON'T LOOK A BIT AFRAID!
THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, TIPU'S SONS!

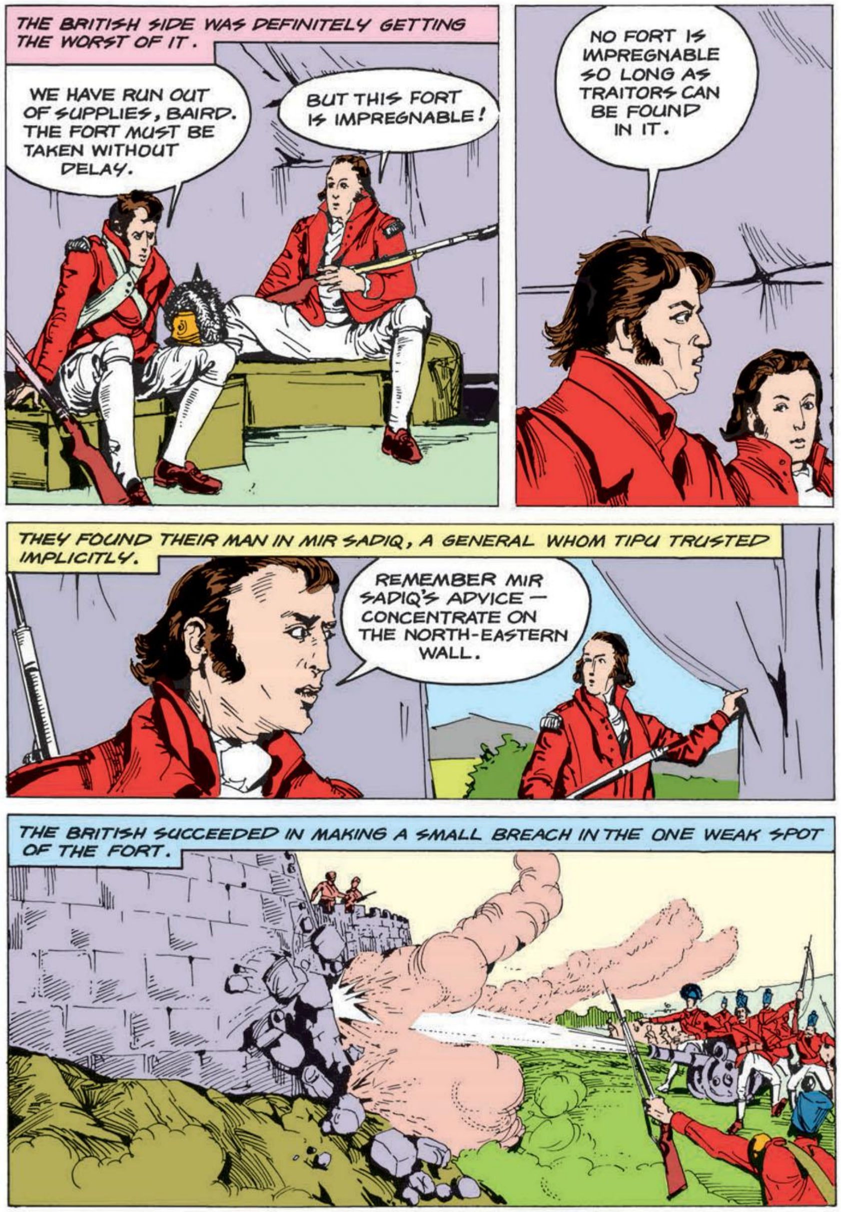

THE PEACE TREATY WAS CONCLUDED.
THIS IS ONLY A TRUCE. THERE WILL BE NO REAL PEACE TILL THE BRITISH LEAVE HINDUSTAN.

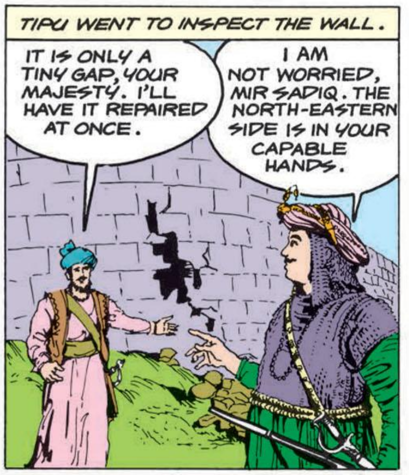

THE PEOPLE OF MYSORE VOLUNTEERED TO PAY A SPECIAL TAX TO SPEED UP THE PAYMENT OF WAR DAMAGES.
THE SULTAN WILL APPRECIATE YOUR GESTURE.


FINALLY THE TERMS OF THE TREATY WERE FULFILLED, AND THE PRINCES RETURNED. TIPU THEN TURNED HIS FULL ATTENTION TO STRENGTHENING HIS ARMY.


LORD WELLESLEY, WHO HAD BEEN APPOINTED THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF BRITISH INDIA, WAS NOT IDLE, EITHER.
WE COULD BE THE PARAMOUNT POWER IN INDIA — THE ONLY OBSTACLE IS TIPU.
THAT MAN IS WILY. HIS LATEST MOVE HAS BEEN TO SEND AMBASSADORS TO AFGHANISTAN, IRAN AND FRANCE ASKING FOR MILITARY HELP. . .

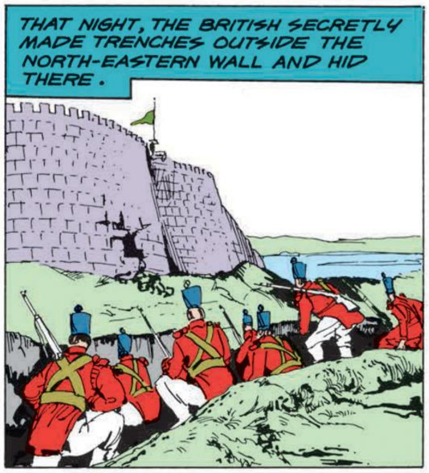

. . . AND NAPOLEON MAY WELL DECIDE TO SAIL FROM EGYPT TO INDIA, IN RESPONSE TO TIPU'S CALL FOR HELP.
NELSON WILL TAKE CARE OF NAPOLEON. I'LL HANDLE TIPU.
UNDER GENERAL HARRIS, THE COMBINED ARMY OF THE BRITISH AND THE NIZAM BESIEGED SRIRANGA PATTANA. THIS TIME THE PESHWA DID NOT JOIN THEM.
THE FORT WAS UNDER CONSTANT FIRE, WHICH IT WITHSTOOD MAGNIFICENTLY...
LET THEM TRY THEIR BEST. I AM READY FOR THEM.


THE BRITISH SIDE WAS DEFINITELY GETTING THE WORST OF IT.
WE HAVE RUN OUT OF SUPPLIES, BAIRD. THE FORT MUST BE TAKEN WITHOUT DELAY.
BUT THIS FORT IS IMPREGNABLE!
NO FORT IS IMPREGNABLE SO LONG AS TRAITORS CAN BE FOUND IN IT.
THEY FOUND THEIR MAN IN MIR SADIQ, A GENERAL WHOM TIPU TRUSTED IMPLICITLY.
REMEMBER MIR SADIQ'S ADVICE — CONCENTRATE ON THE NORTH-EASTERN WALL.
THE BRITISH SUCCEEDED IN MAKING A SMALL BREACH IN THE ONE WEAK SPOT OF THE FORT.

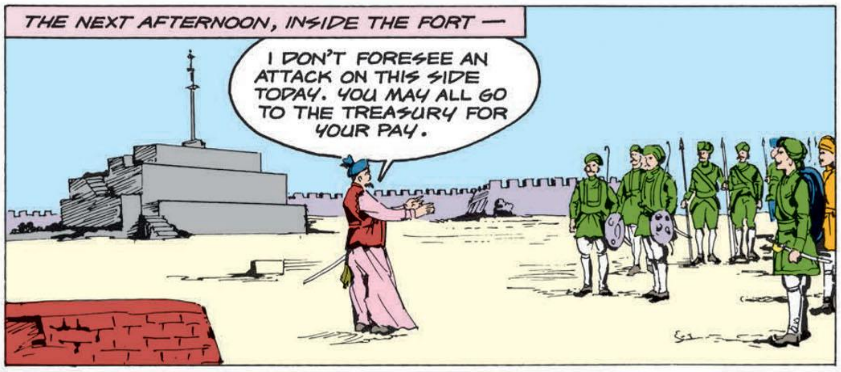


TIPU WENT TO INSPECT THE WALL.

IT IS ONLY A TINY GAP, YOUR MAJESTY. I'LL HAVE IT REPAIRED AT ONCE.
I AM NOT WORRIED, MIR SADIQ. THE NORTH-EASTERN SIDE IS IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.

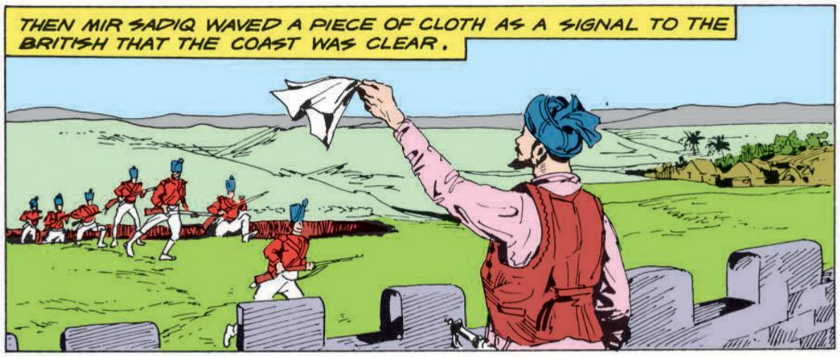


THAT NIGHT, THE BRITISH SECRETLY MADE TRENCHES OUTSIDE THE NORTH-EASTERN WALL AND HID THERE.

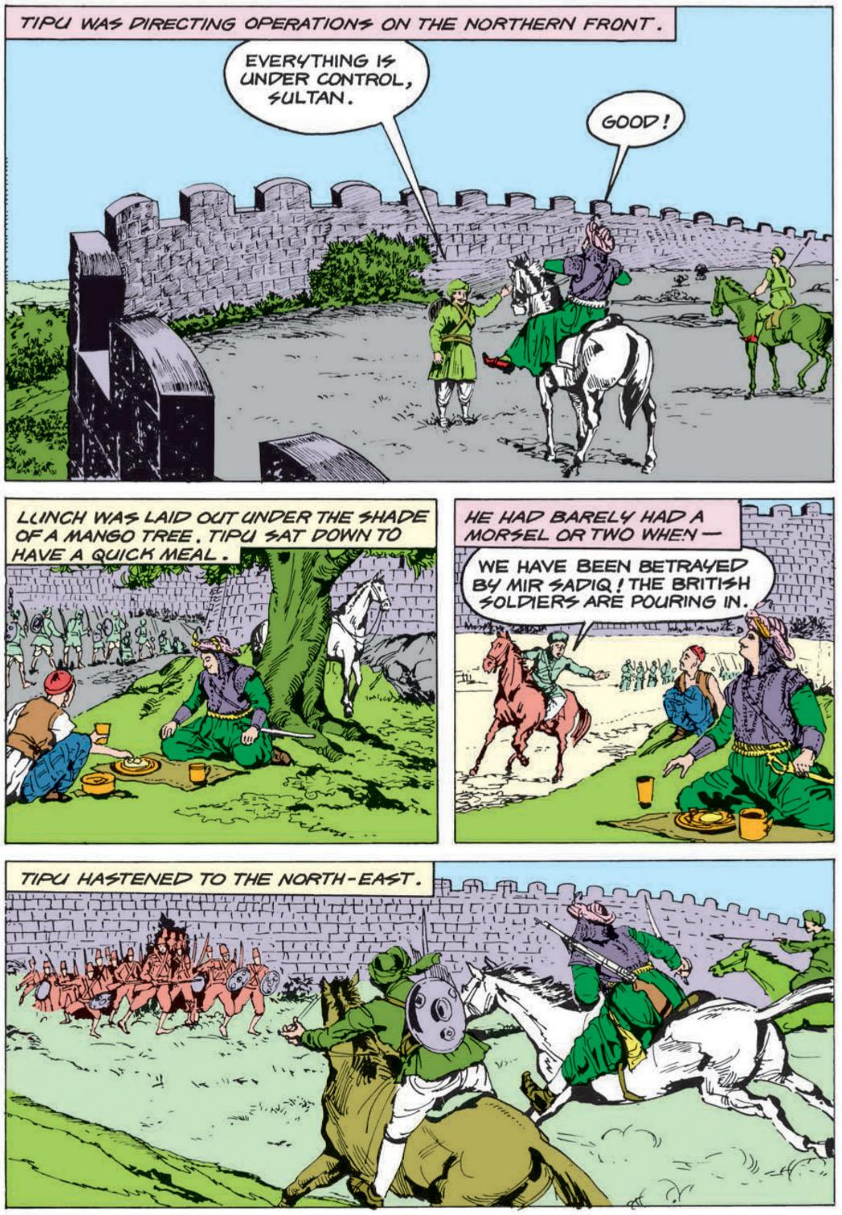


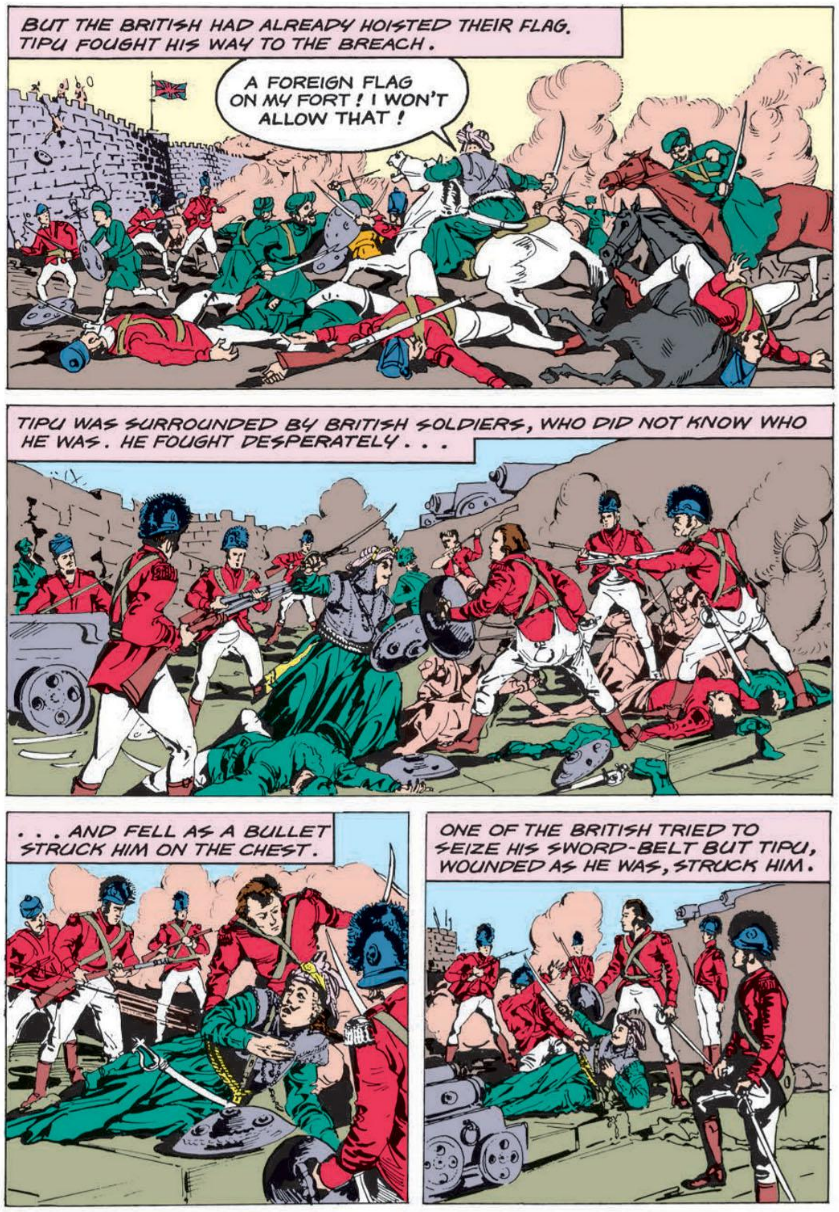
THE NEXT AFTERNOON, INSIDE THE FORT —

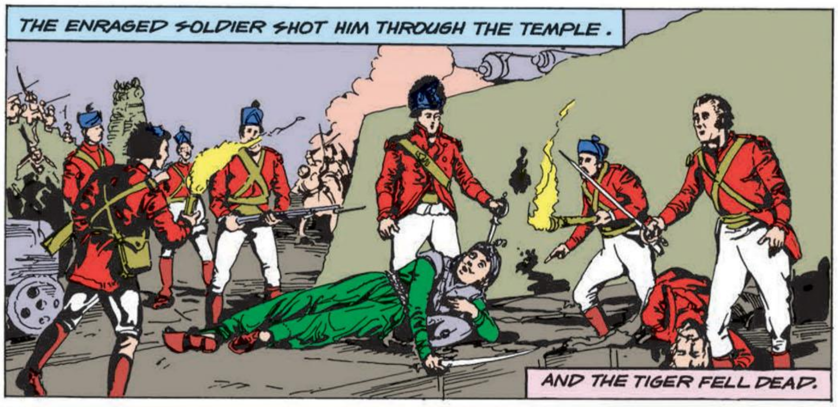
I DON'T FORESEE AN ATTACK ON THIS SIDE TODAY. YOU MAY ALL GO TO THE TREASURY FOR YOUR PAY.

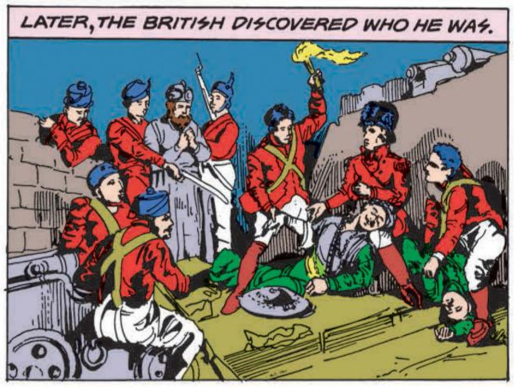


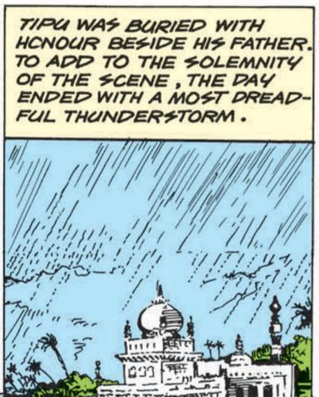
THEN MIR SADIQ WAVED A PIECE OF CLOTH AS A SIGNAL TO THE BRITISH THAT THE COAST WAS CLEAR.

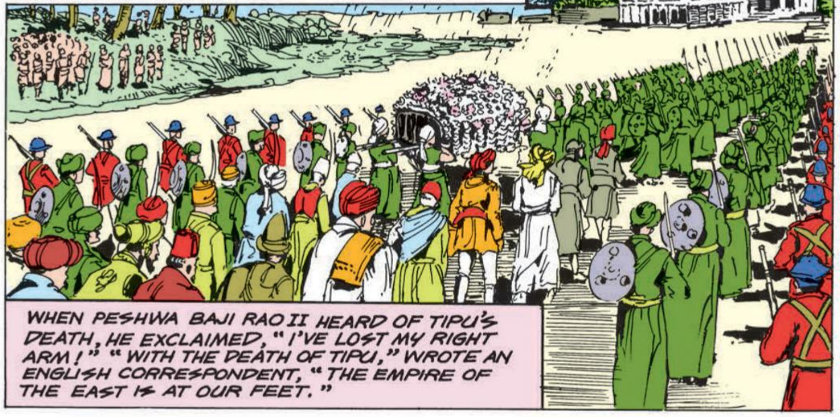

TIPU WAS DIRECTING OPERATIONS ON THE NORTHERN FRONT.
EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL, SULTAN.
GOOD!
LUNCH WAS LAID OUT UNDER THE SHADE OF A MANGO TREE. TIPU SAT DOWN TO HAVE A QUICK MEAL.
HE HAD BARELY HAD A MORSEL OR TWO WHEN —
WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED BY MIR SADIQ! THE BRITISH SOLDIERS ARE POURING IN.
TIPU HASTENED TO THE NORTH-EAST.


BUT THE BRITISH HAD ALREADY HOISTED THEIR FLAG. TIPU FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE BREACH.
A FOREIGN FLAG ON MY FORT! I WON'T ALLOW THAT!
TIPU WAS SURROUNDED BY BRITISH SOLDIERS, WHO DID NOT KNOW WHO HE WAS. HE FOUGHT DESPERATELY . . .
. . . AND FELL AS A BULLET STRUCK HIM ON THE CHEST.
ONE OF THE BRITISH TRIED TO SEIZE HIS SWORD-BELT BUT TIPU, WOUNDED AS HE WAS, STRUCK HIM.


THE ENRAGED SOLDIER SHOT HIM THROUGH THE TEMPLE.
AND THE TIGER FELL DEAD.

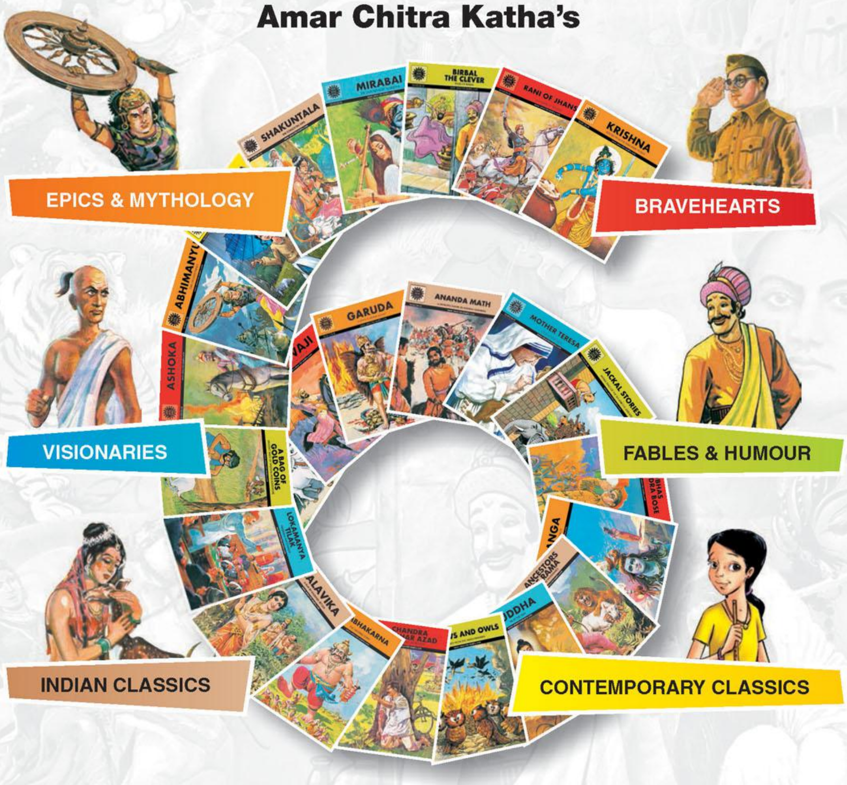

LATER, THE BRITISH DISCOVERED WHO HE WAS.


TIPU WAS BURIED WITH HONOUR BESIDE HIS FATHER. TO ADD TO THE SOLEMNITY OF THE SCENE, THE DAY ENDED WITH A MOST DREADFUL THUNDERSTORM.


WHEN PESHWA BAJI RAO II HEARD OF TIPU'S DEATH, HE EXCLAIMED, "I'VE LOST MY RIGHT ARM!" "WITH THE DEATH OF TIPU," WROTE AN ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT, "THE EMPIRE OF THE EAST IS AT OUR FEET."

AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA

Amar Chitra Katha's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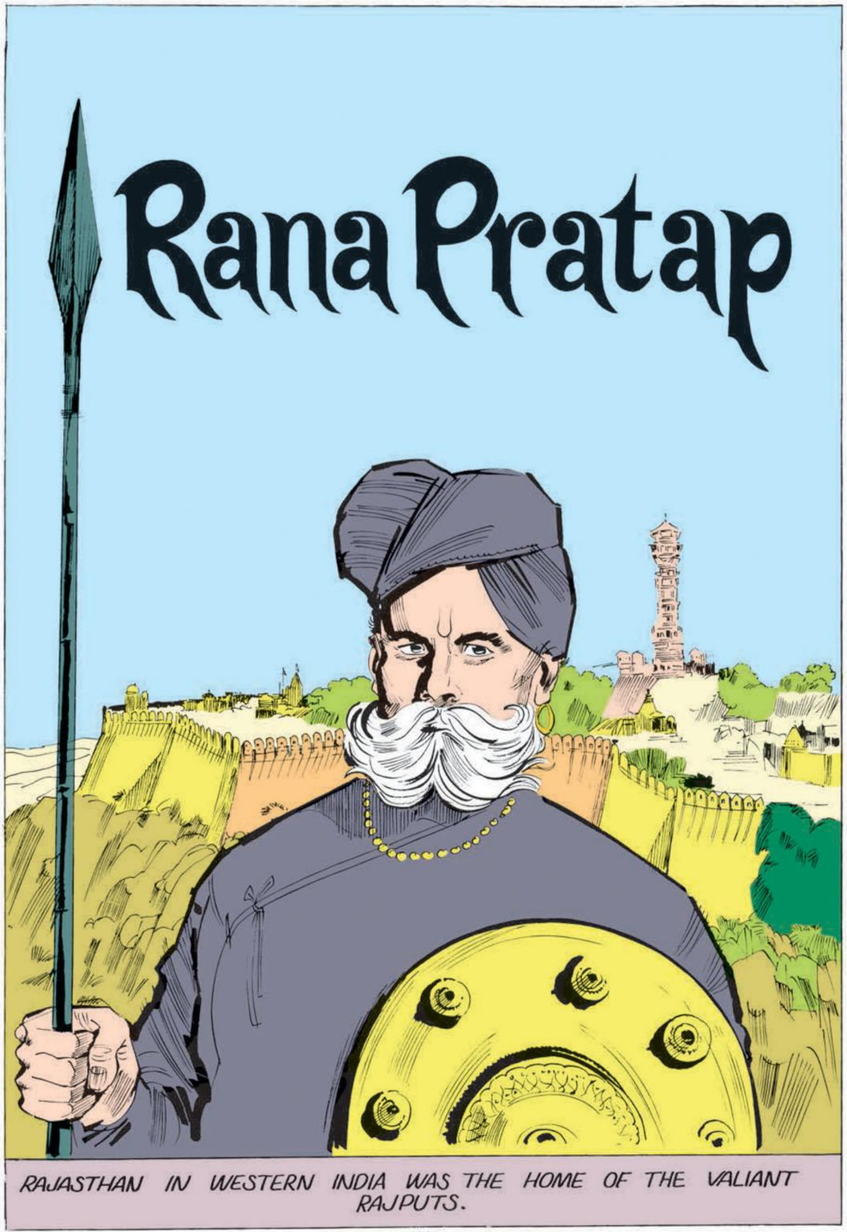
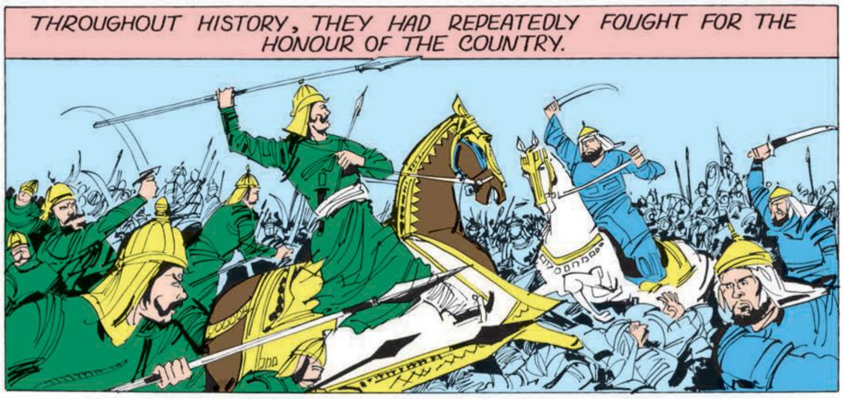
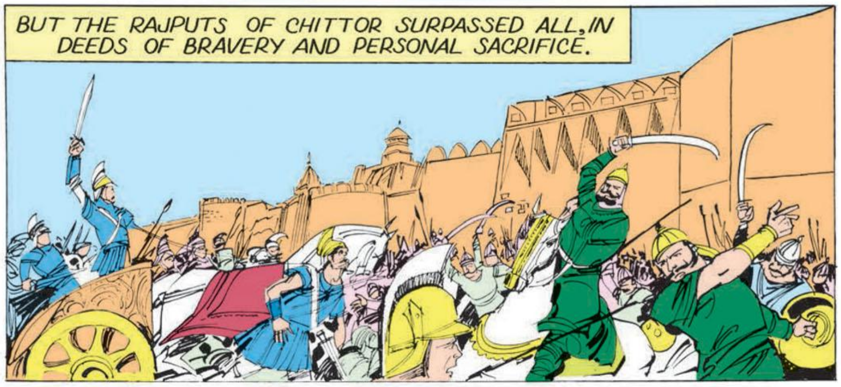
# Rana Pratap

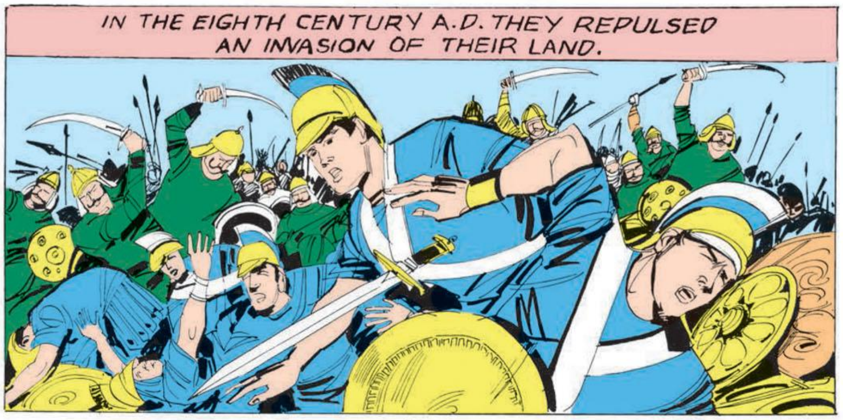

RAJASTHAN IN WESTERN INDIA WAS THE HOME OF THE VALIANT RAJPUTS.



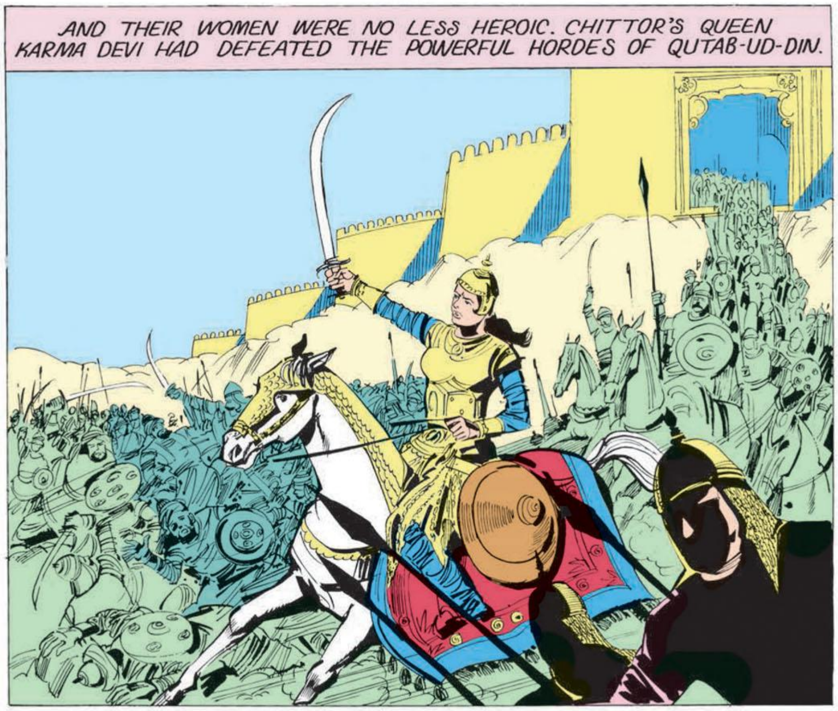
THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THEY HAD REPEATEDLY FOUGHT FOR THE HONOUR OF THE COUNTRY.



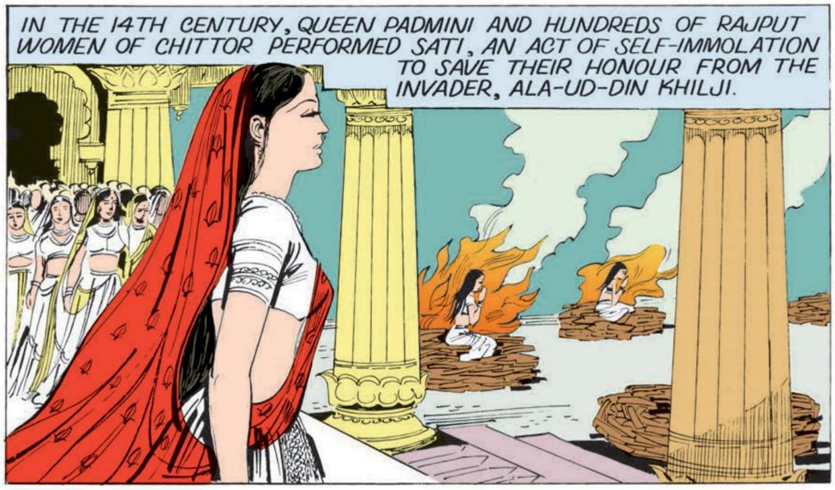
BUT THE RAJPUTS OF CHITTOR SURPASSED ALL, IN DEEDS OF BRAVERY AND PERSONAL SACRIFICE.



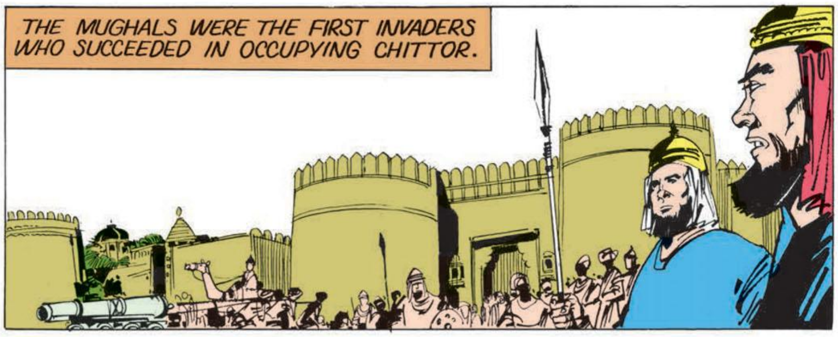
IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY A.D. THEY REPULSED AN INVASION OF THEIR LAND.

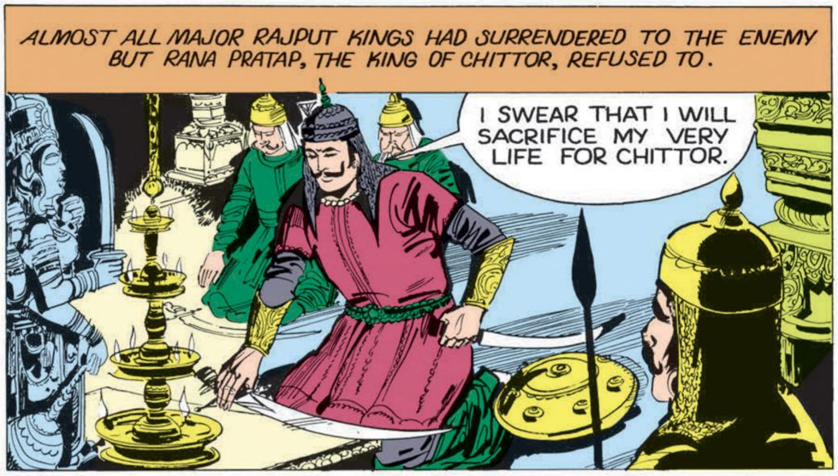


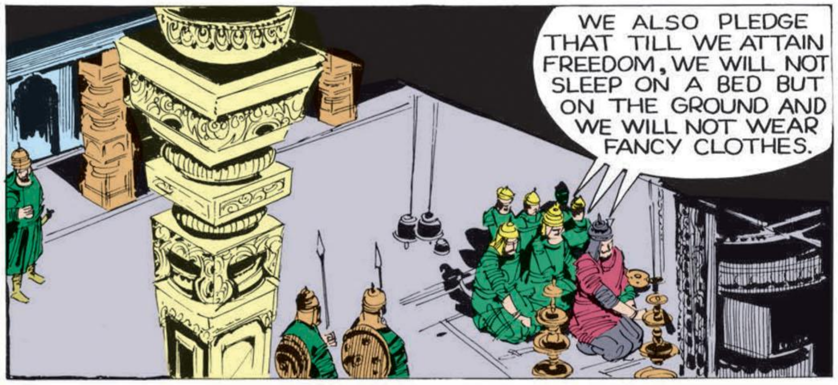
AND THEIR WOMEN WERE NO LESS HEROIC. CHITTOR'S QUEEN KARMA DEVI HAD DEFEATED THE POWERFUL HORDES OF QUTAB-UD-DIN.

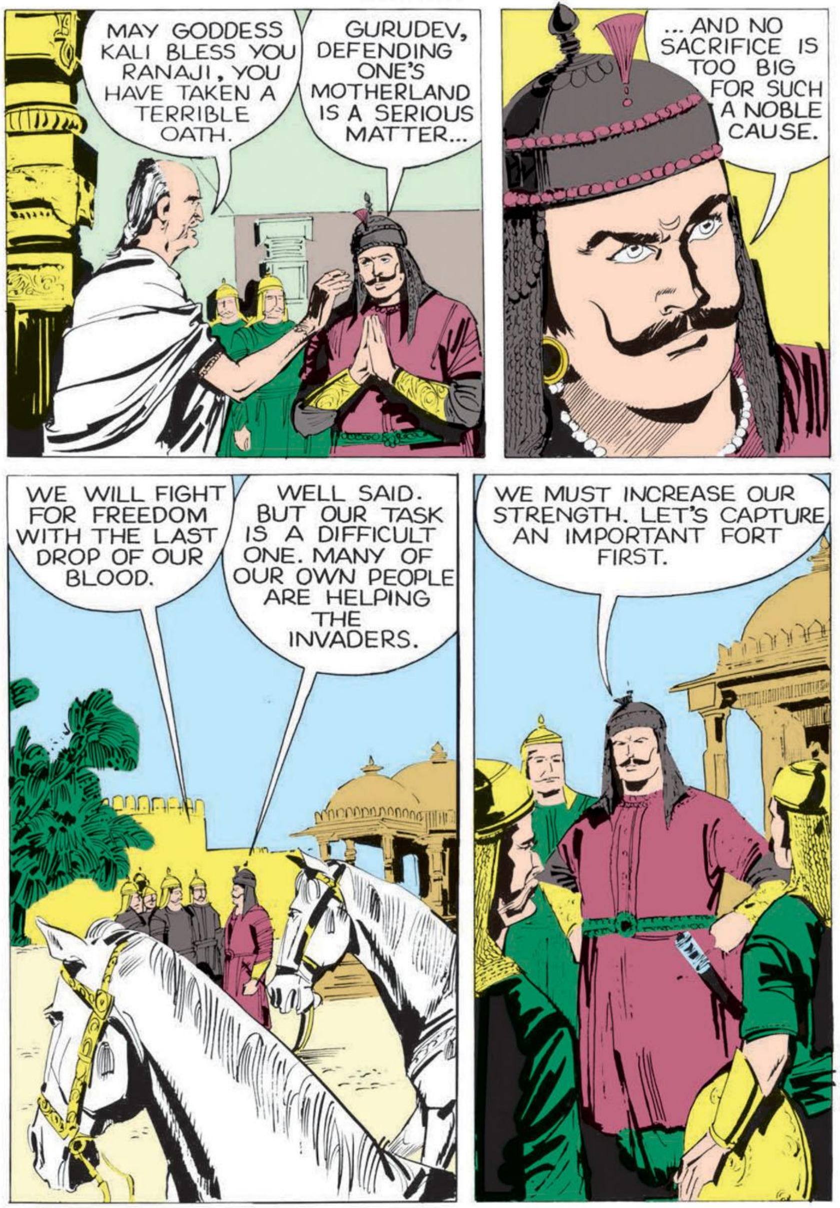


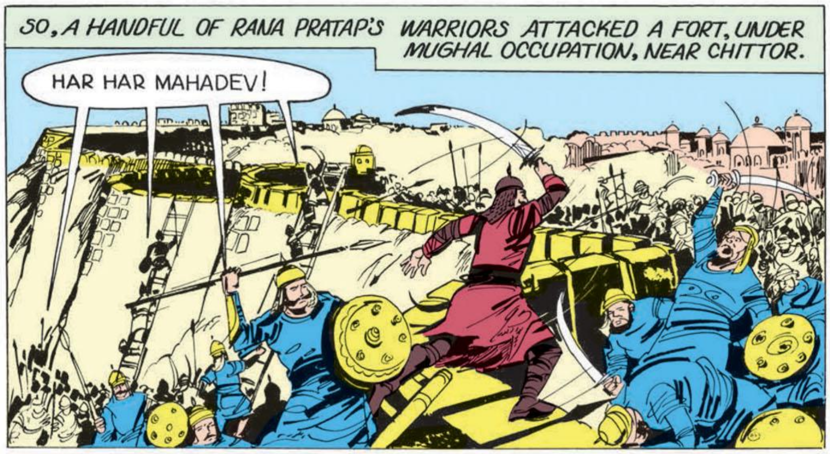
IN THE 14TH CENTURY, QUEEN PADMINI AND HUNDREDS OF RAJPUT WOMEN OF CHITTOR PERFORMED SATI, AN ACT OF SELF-IMMOLATION TO SAVE THEIR HONOUR FROM THE INVADER, ALA-UD-DIN KHILJI.

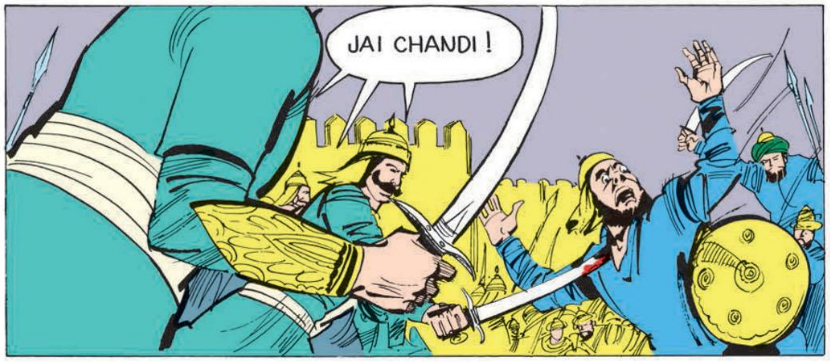

THE MUGHALS WERE THE FIRST INVADERS WHO SUCCEEDED IN OCCUPYING CHITTOR.

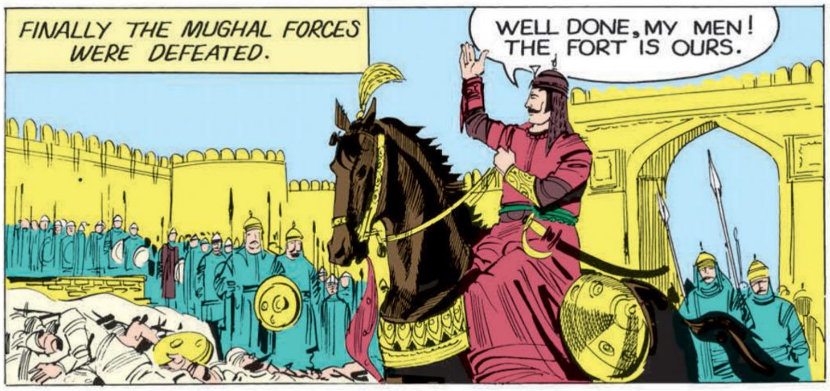

ALMOST ALL MAJOR RAJPUT KINGS HAD SURRENDERED TO THE ENEMY BUT RANA PRATAP, THE KING OF CHITTOR, REFUSED TO.
I SWEAR THAT I WILL SACRIFICE MY VERY LIFE FOR CHITTOR.

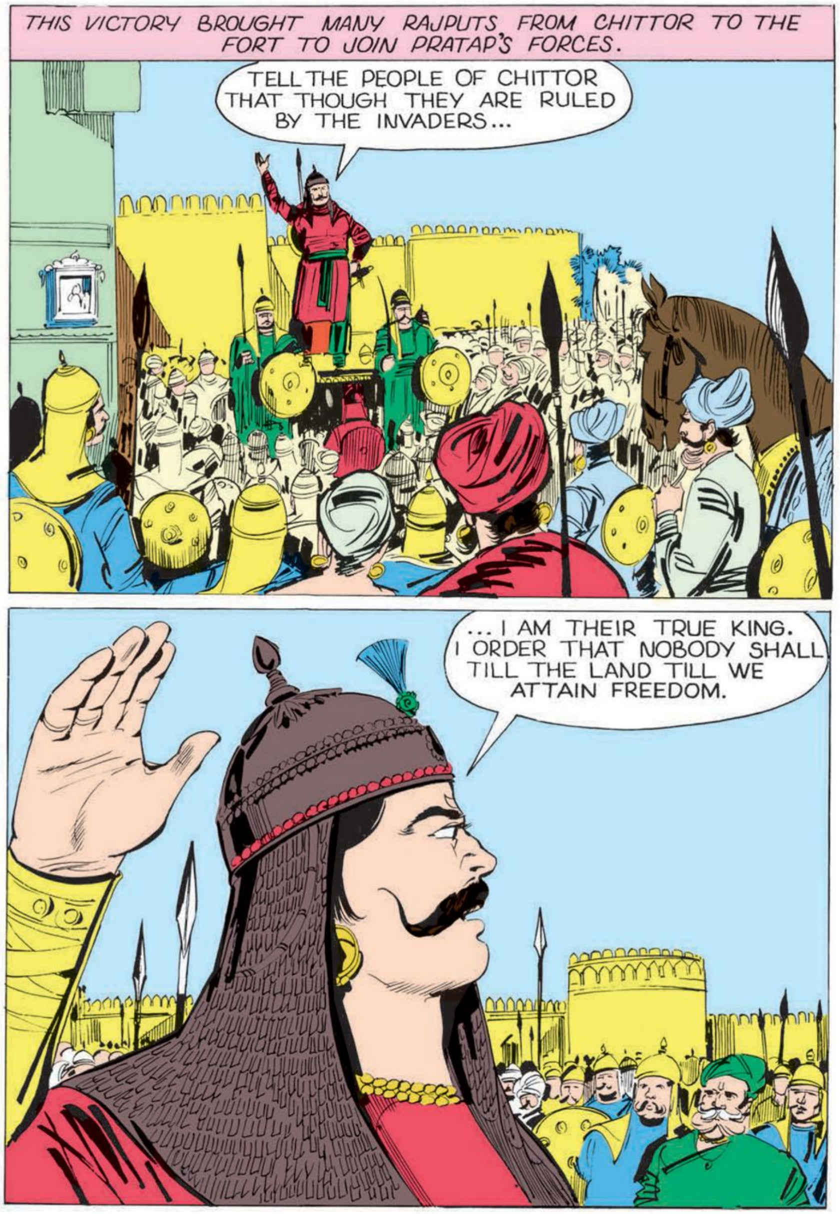

WE ALSO PLEDGE THAT TILL WE ATTAIN FREEDOM, WE WILL NOT SLEEP ON A BED BUT ON THE GROUND AND WE WILL NOT WEAR FANCY CLOTHES.

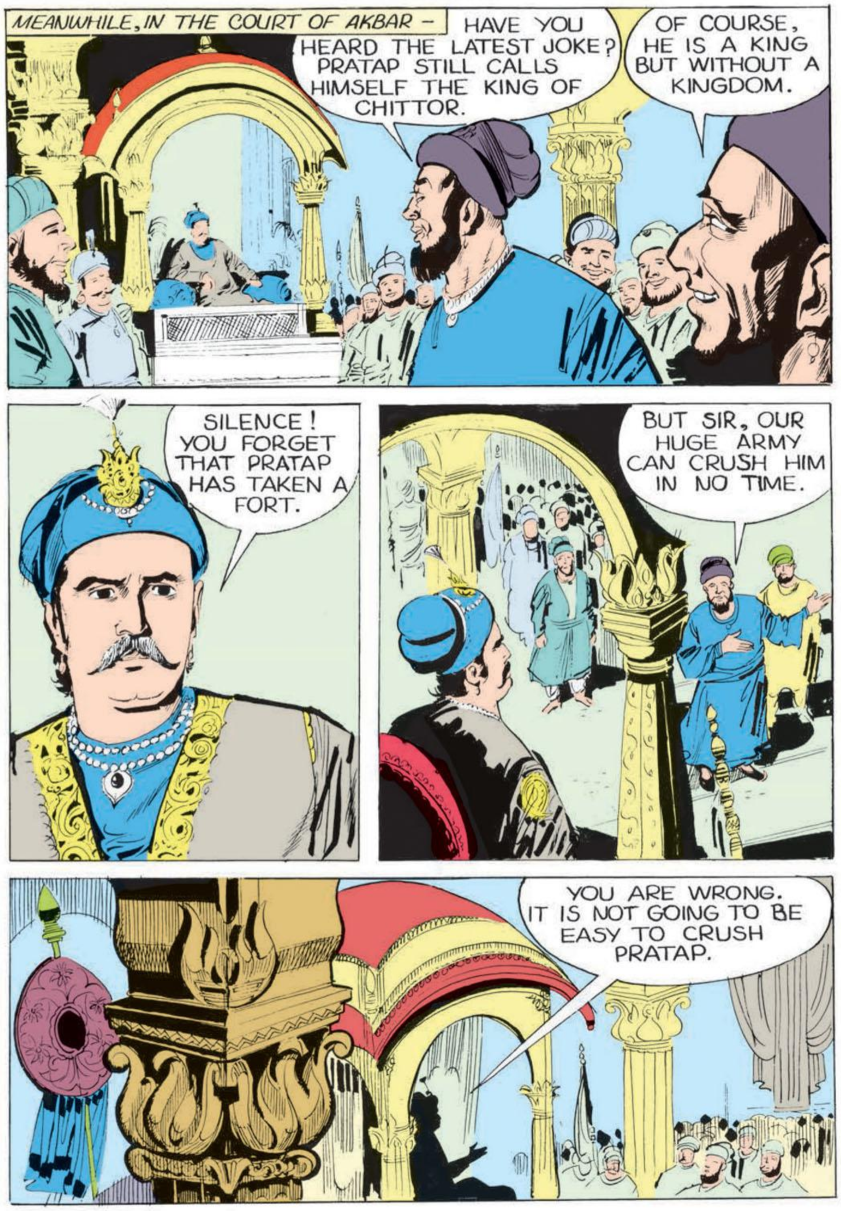

MAY GODDESS KALI BLESS YOU RANAJI, YOU HAVE TAKEN A TERRIBLE OATH.
GURUDEV, DEFENDING ONE'S MOTHERLAND IS A SERIOUS MATTER...
... AND NO SACRIFICE IS TOO BIG FOR SUCH A NOBLE CAUSE.
WE WILL FIGHT FOR FREEDOM WITH THE LAST DROP OF OUR BLOOD.
WELL SAID. BUT OUR TASK IS A DIFFICULT ONE. MANY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE ARE HELPING THE INVADERS.
WE MUST INCREASE OUR STRENGTH. LET'S CAPTURE AN IMPORTANT FORT FIRST.

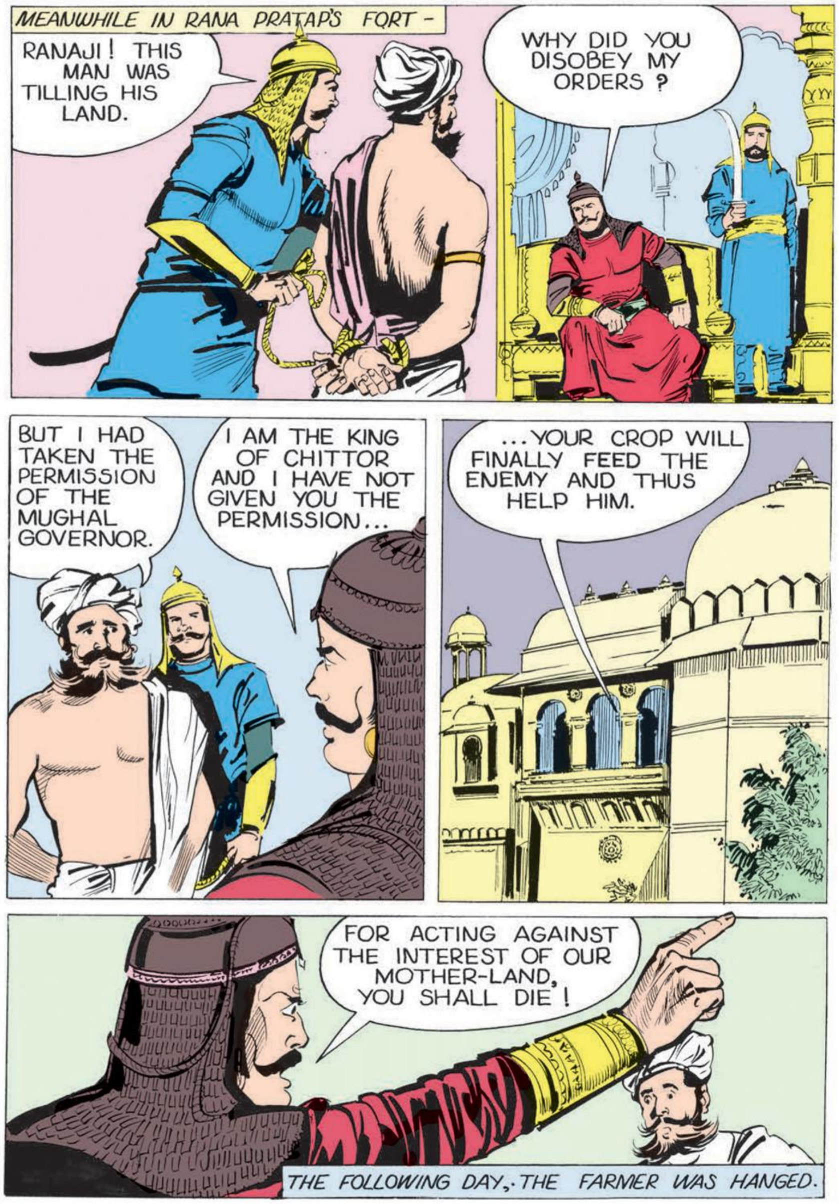

SO, A HANDFUL OF RANA PRATAP'S WARRIORS ATTACKED A FORT, UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION, NEAR CHITTOR.
HAR HAR MAHADEV!

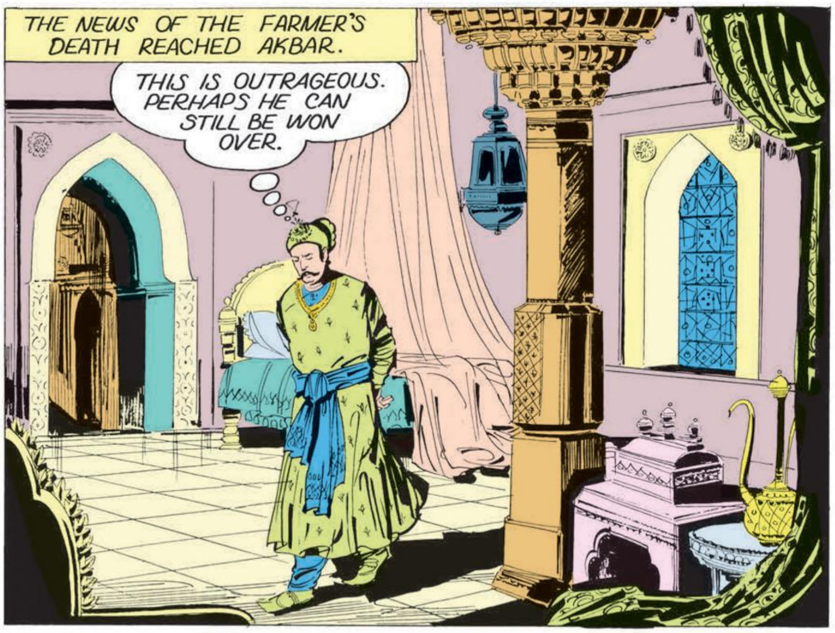

JAI CHANDI!

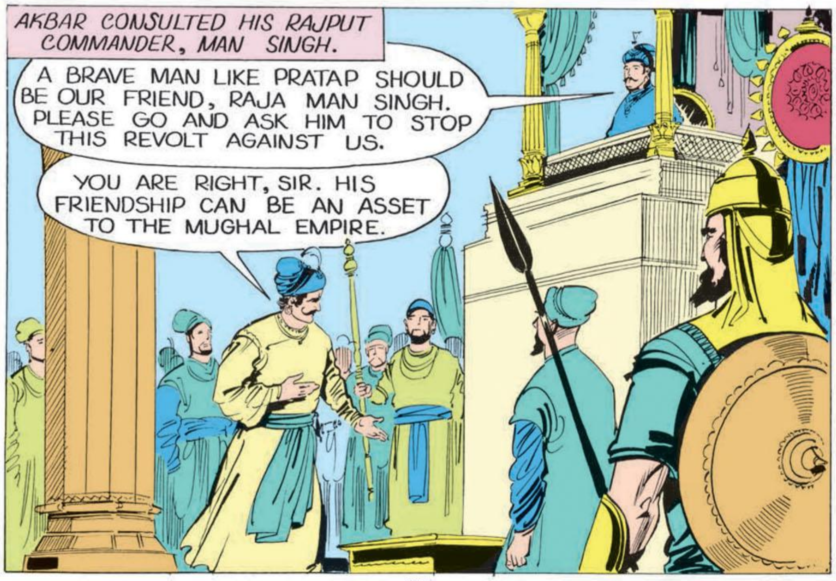

FINALLY THE MUGHAL FORCES WERE DEFEATED.
WELL DONE, MY MEN! THE FORT IS OURS.

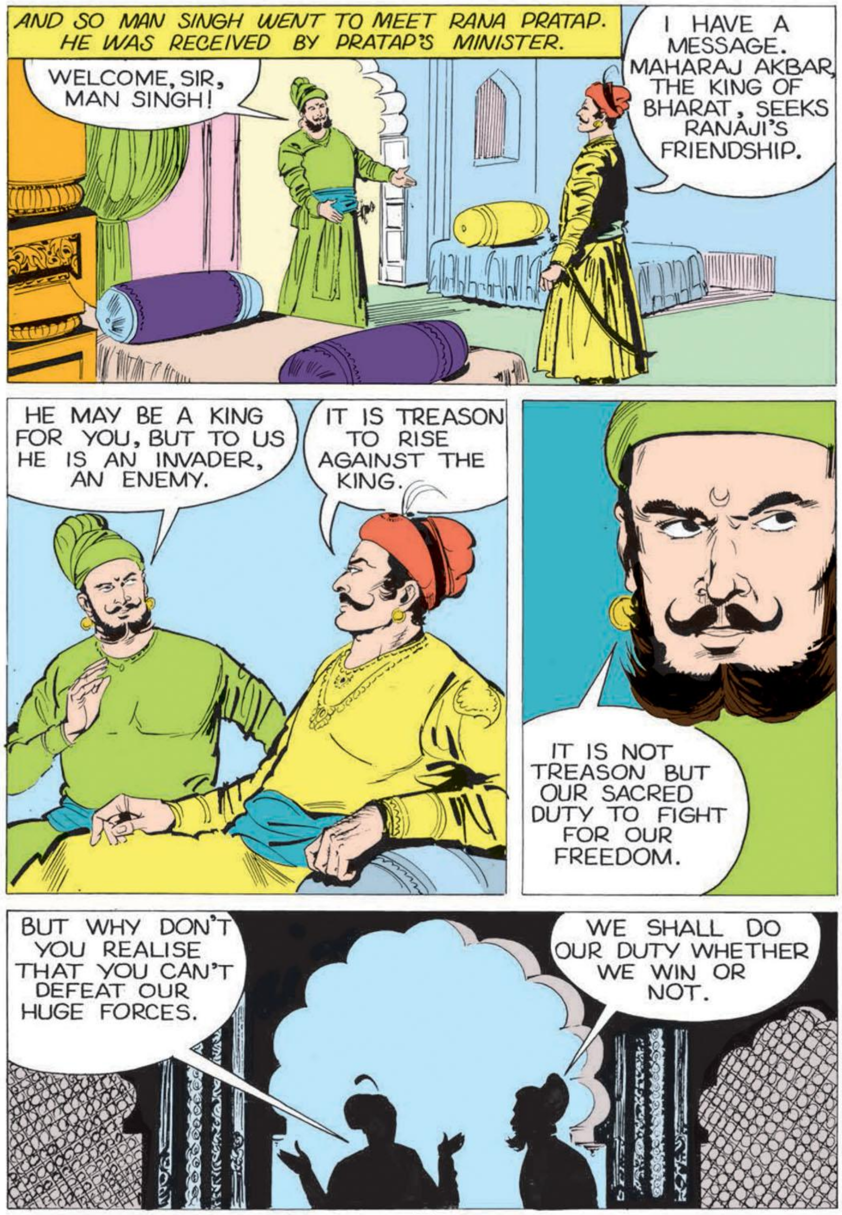

THIS VICTORY BROUGHT MANY RAJPUTS FROM CHITTOR TO THE FORT TO JOIN PRATAP'S FORCES.
TELL THE PEOPLE OF CHITTOR THAT THOUGH THEY ARE RULED BY THE INVADERS...
...I AM THEIR TRUE KING. I ORDER THAT NOBODY SHALL TILL THE LAND TILL WE ATTAIN FREEDOM.

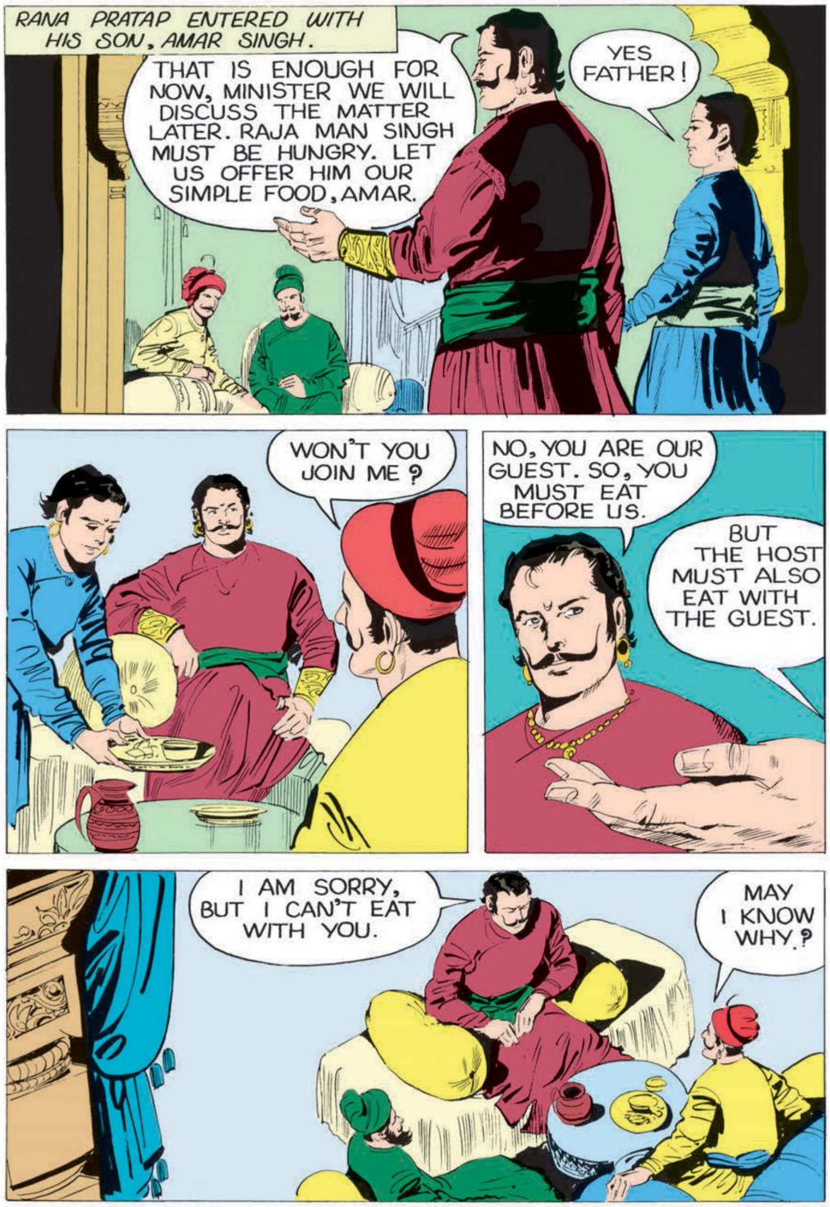

MEANWHILE, IN THE COURT OF AKBAR –
HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST JOKE? PRATAP STILL CALLS HIMSELF THE KING OF CHITTOR.
OF COURSE, HE IS A KING BUT WITHOUT A KINGDOM.
SILENCE! YOU FORGET THAT PRATAP HAS TAKEN A FORT.
BUT SIR, OUR HUGE ARMY CAN CRUSH HIM IN NO TIME.
YOU ARE WRONG. IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO CRUSH PRATAP.

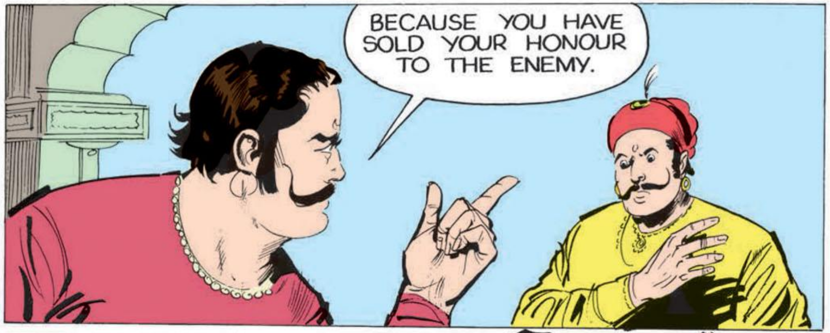

MEANWHILE IN RANA PRATAP'S FORT –
RANAJI! THIS MAN WAS TILLING HIS LAND.
WHY DID YOU DISOBEY MY ORDERS?
BUT I HAD TAKEN THE PERMISSION OF THE MUGHAL GOVERNOR.
I AM THE KING OF CHITTOR AND I HAVE NOT GIVEN YOU THE PERMISSION...
...YOUR CROP WILL FINALLY FEED THE ENEMY AND THUS HELP HIM.
FOR ACTING AGAINST THE INTEREST OF OUR MOTHER-LAND, YOU SHALL DIE!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE FARMER WAS HANGED.

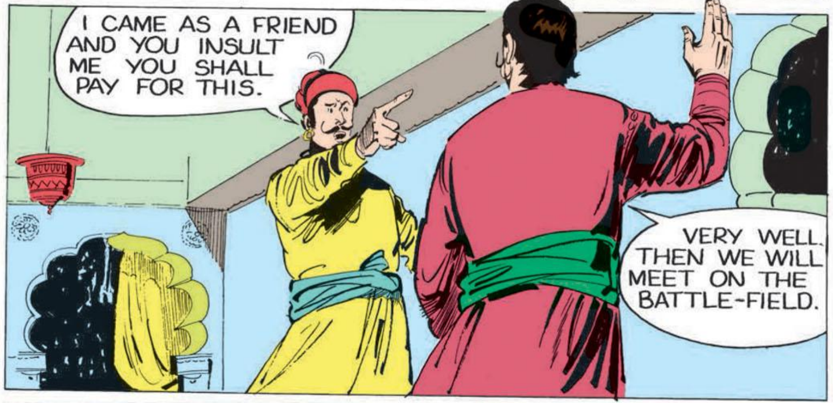

THE NEWS OF THE FARMER'S DEATH REACHED AKBAR.
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS. PERHAPS HE CAN STILL BE WON OVER.

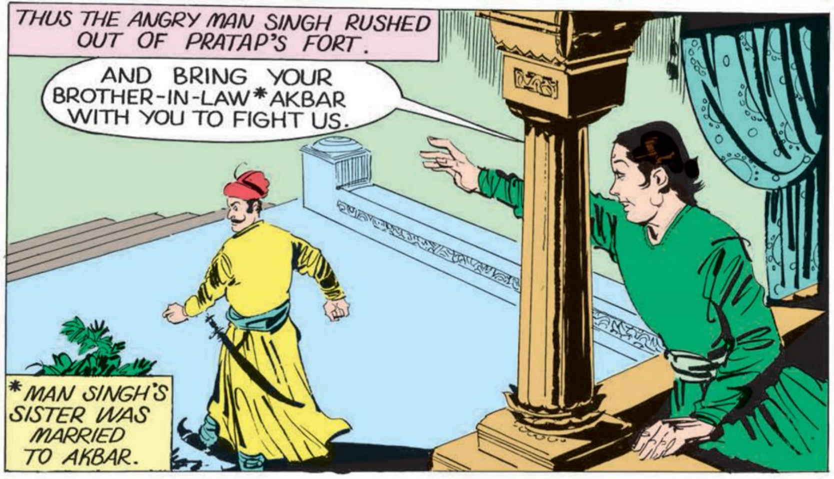

AKBAR CONSULTED HIS RAJPUT COMMANDER, MAN SINGH.
A BRAVE MAN LIKE PRATAP SHOULD BE OUR FRIEND, RAJA MAN SINGH. PLEASE GO AND ASK HIM TO STOP THIS REVOLT AGAINST US.
YOU ARE RIGHT, SIR. HIS FRIENDSHIP CAN BE AN ASSET TO THE MUGHAL EMPIRE.

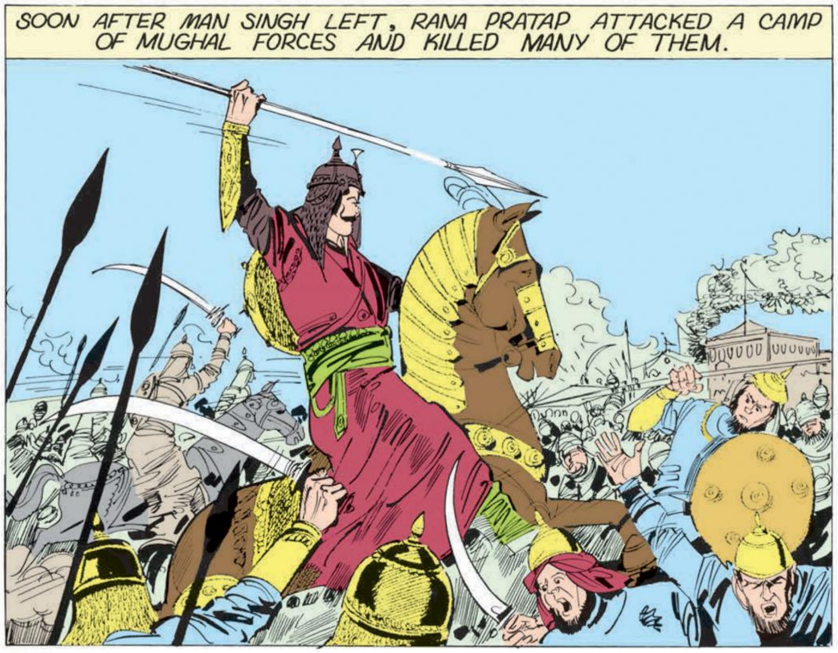

AND SO MAN SINGH WENT TO MEET RANA PRATAP. HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRATAP'S MINISTER.
WELCOME, SIR, MAN SINGH!
I HAVE A MESSAGE. MAHARAJ AKBAR, THE KING OF BHARAT, SEEKS RANAJI'S FRIENDSHIP.
HE MAY BE A KING FOR YOU, BUT TO US HE IS AN INVADER, AN ENEMY.
IT IS TREASON TO RISE AGAINST THE KING.
IT IS NOT TREASON BUT OUR SACRED DUTY TO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM.
BUT WHY DON'T YOU REALISE THAT YOU CAN'T DEFEAT OUR HUGE FORCES.
WE SHALL DO OUR DUTY WHETHER WE WIN OR NOT.

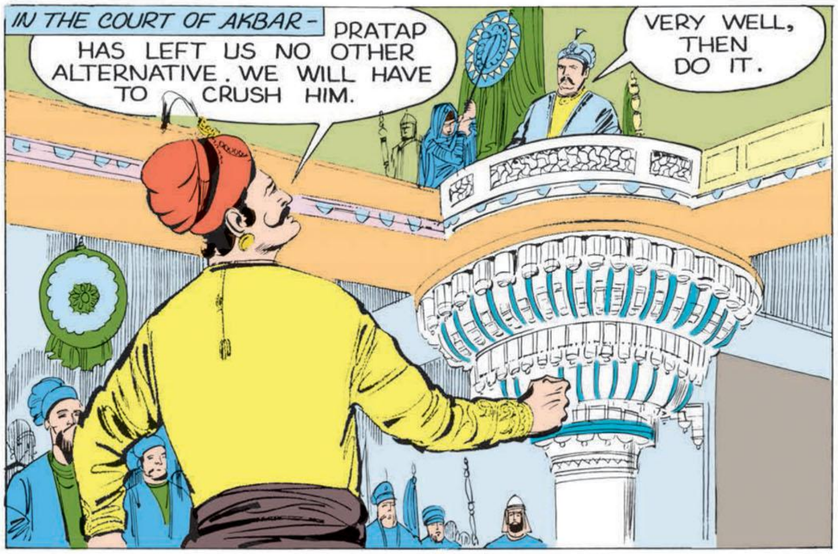

RANA PRATAP ENTERED WITH HIS SON, AMAR SINGH.
THAT IS ENOUGH FOR NOW, MINISTER WE WILL DISCUSS THE MATTER LATER. RAJA MAN SINGH MUST BE HUNGRY. LET US OFFER HIM OUR SIMPLE FOOD, AMAR.
YES FATHER!
WON'T YOU JOIN ME?
NO, YOU ARE OUR GUEST. SO, YOU MUST EAT BEFORE US.
BUT THE HOST MUST ALSO EAT WITH THE GUEST.
I AM SORRY, BUT I CAN'T EAT WITH YOU.
MAY I KNOW WHY?


BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOLD YOUR HONOUR TO THE ENEMY.

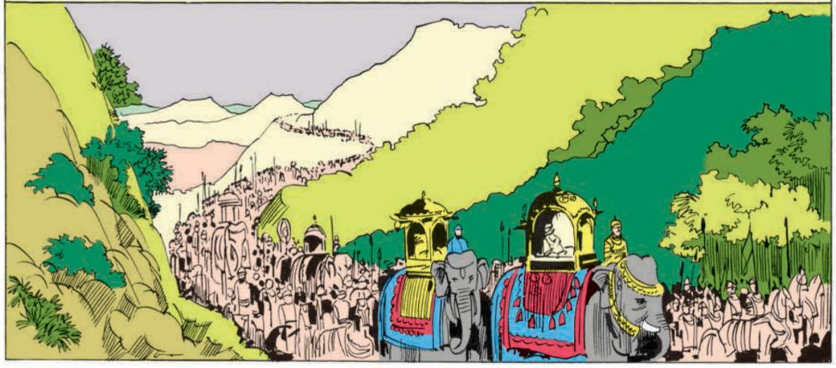

I CAME AS A FRIEND AND YOU INSULT ME YOU SHALL PAY FOR THIS.
VERY WELL. THEN WE WILL MEET ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

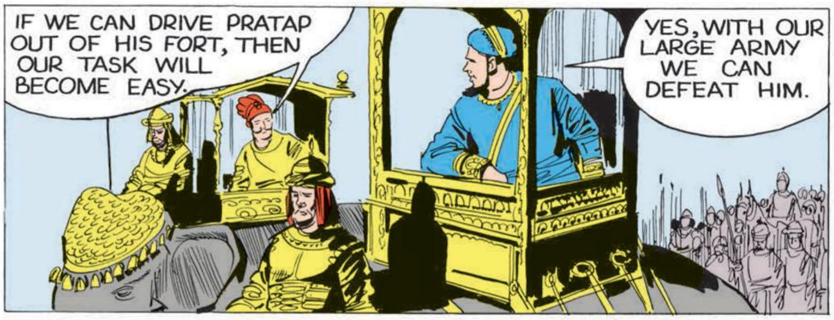

THUS THE ANGRY MAN SINGH RUSHED OUT OF PRATAP'S FORT.
AND BRING YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW*AKBAR WITH YOU TO FIGHT US.
*MAN SINGH'S SISTER WAS MARRIED TO AKBAR.


SOON AFTER MAN SINGH LEFT, RANA PRATAP ATTACKED A CAMP OF MUGHAL FORCES AND KILLED MANY OF THEM.

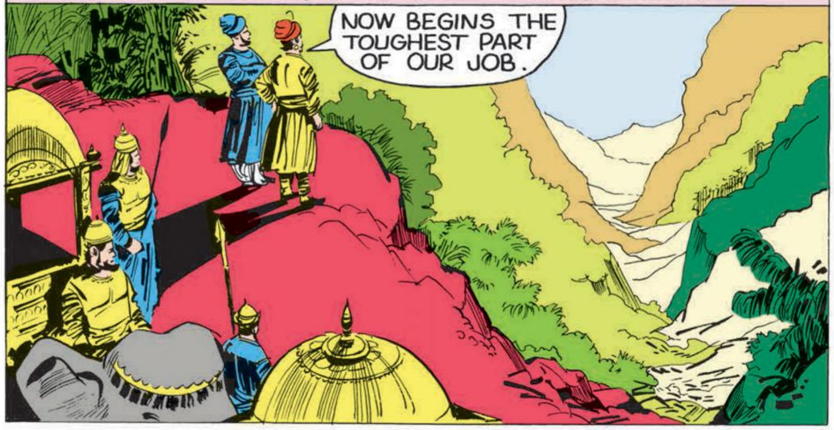

IN THE COURT OF AKBAR -
PRATAP HAS LEFT US NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE. WE WILL HAVE TO CRUSH HIM.
VERY WELL, THEN DO IT.

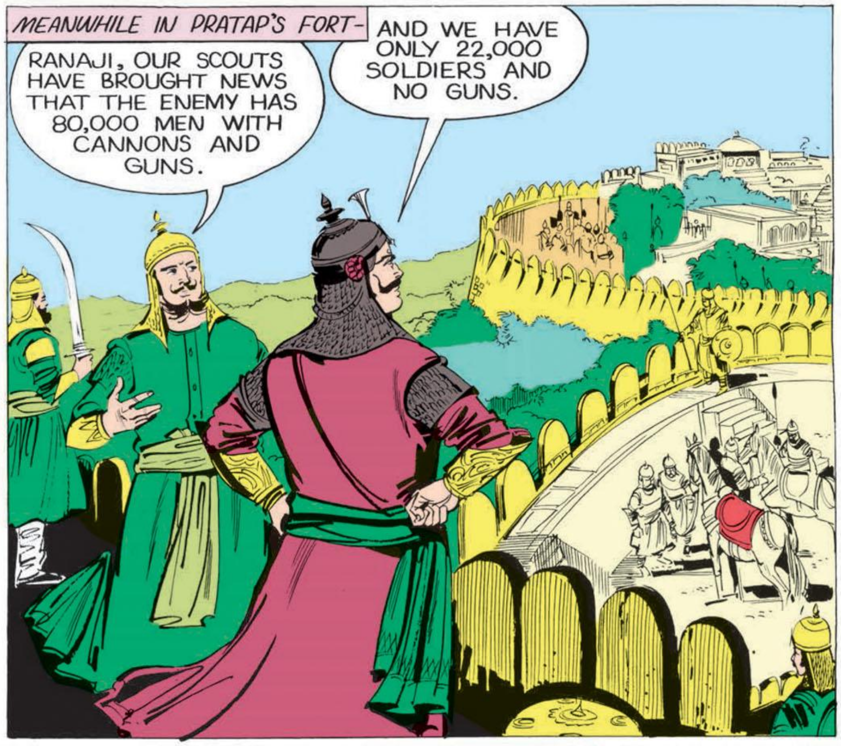
SOON MAN SINGH AND PRINCE SALIM SET OUT WITH A HUGE ARMY.

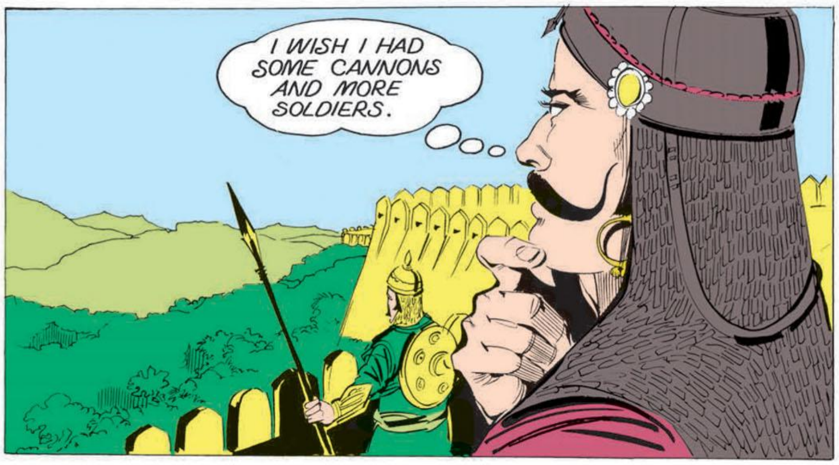


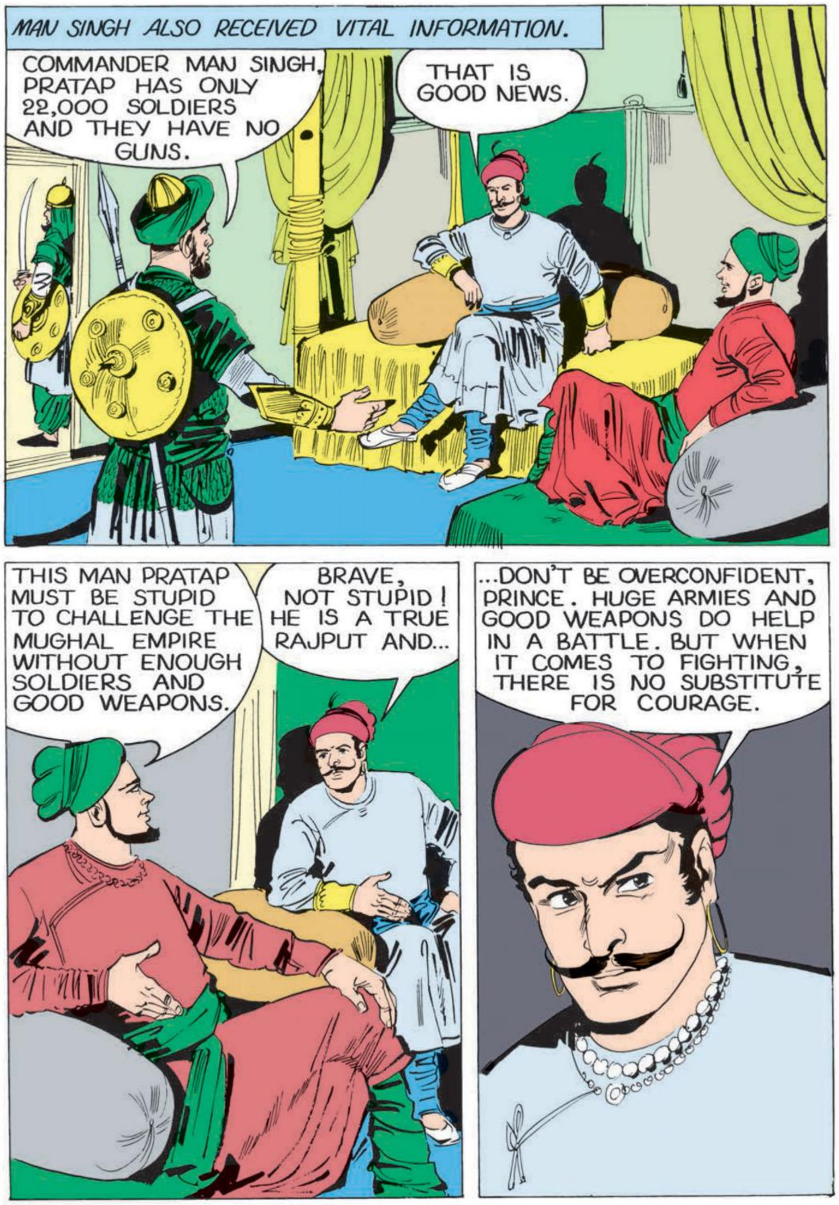

IF WE CAN DRIVE PRATAP OUT OF HIS FORT, THEN OUR TASK WILL BECOME EASY.
YES, WITH OUR LARGE ARMY WE CAN DEFEAT HIM.

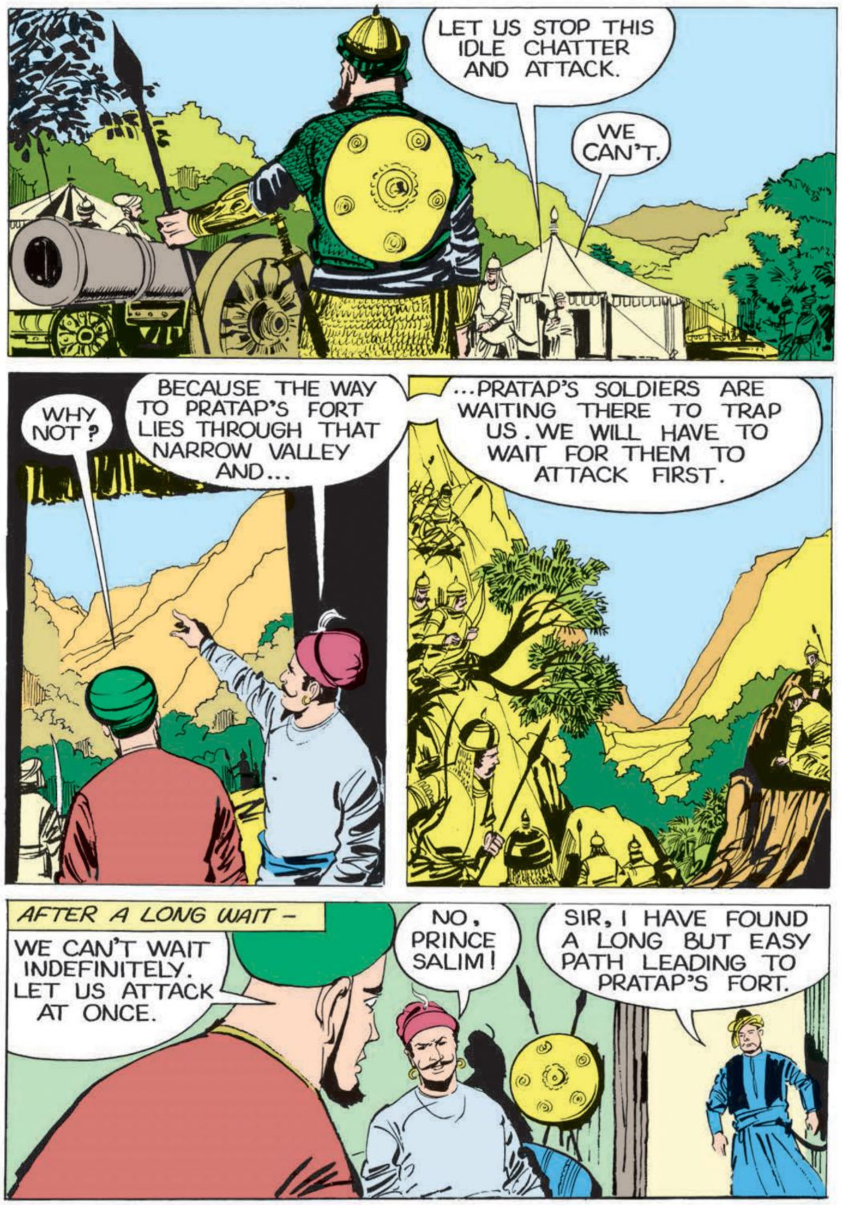
FINALLY AKBAR'S FORCES REACHED THE FAMOUS BATTLE-GROUND, HALDI-GHATI, SITUATED IN A NARROW VALLEY.

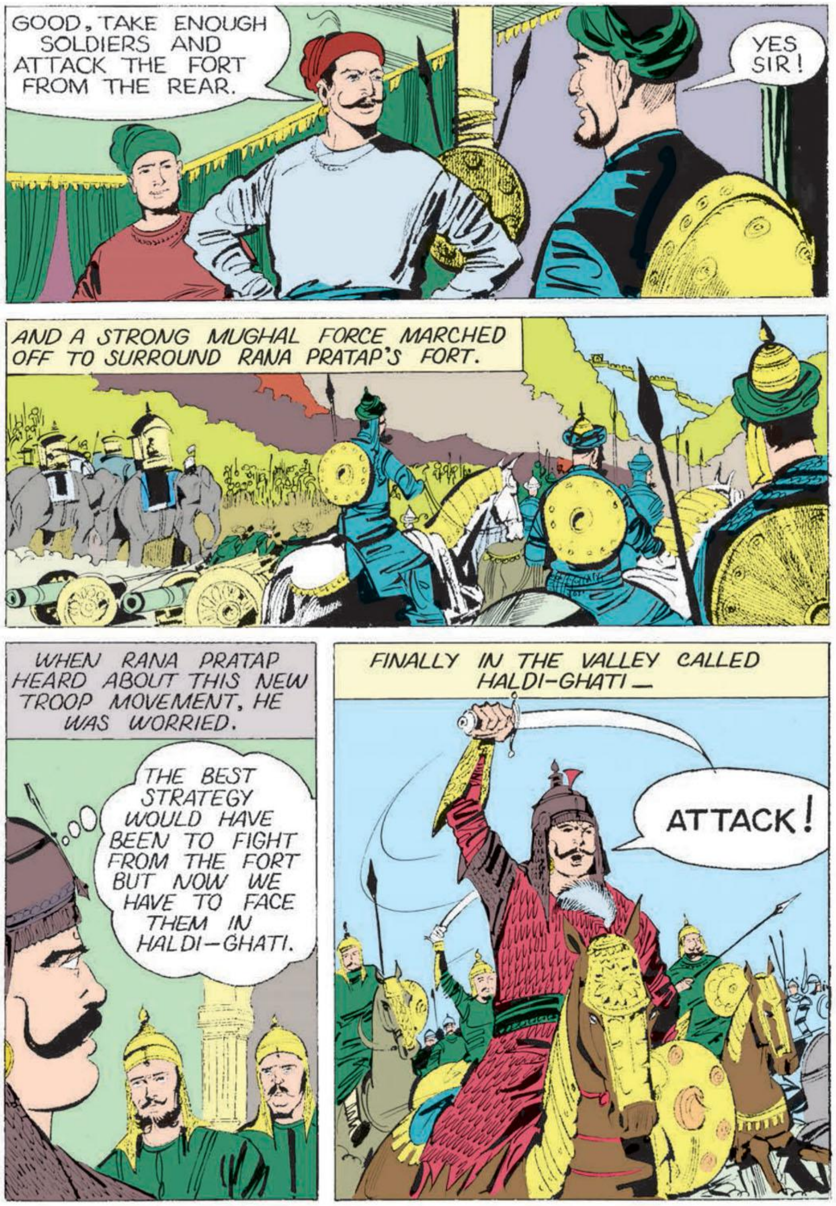

NOW BEGINS THE TOUGHEST PART OF OUR JOB.


MEANWHILE IN PRATAP'S FORT-
RANAJI, OUR SCOUTS HAVE BROUGHT NEWS THAT THE ENEMY HAS 80,000 MEN WITH CANNONS AND GUNS.
AND WE HAVE ONLY 22,000 SOLDIERS AND NO GUNS.

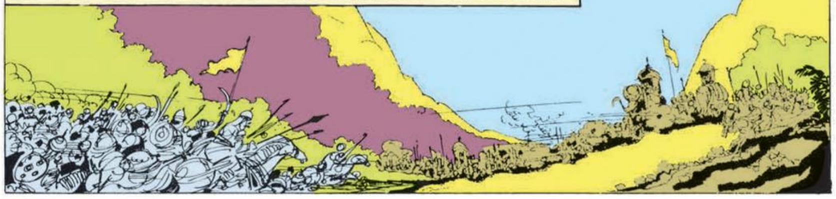

I WISH I HAD SOME CANNONS AND MORE SOLDIERS.


MAN SINGH ALSO RECEIVED VITAL INFORMATION.
COMMANDER MAN SINGH, PRATAP HAS ONLY 22,000 SOLDIERS AND THEY HAVE NO GUNS.
THAT IS GOOD NEWS.
THIS MAN PRATAP MUST BE STUPID TO CHALLENGE THE MUGHAL EMPIRE WITHOUT ENOUGH SOLDIERS AND GOOD WEAPONS.
BRAVE, NOT STUPID! HE IS A TRUE RAJPUT AND...
...DON'T BE OVERCONFIDENT, PRINCE. HUGE ARMIES AND GOOD WEAPONS DO HELP IN A BATTLE. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR COURAGE.

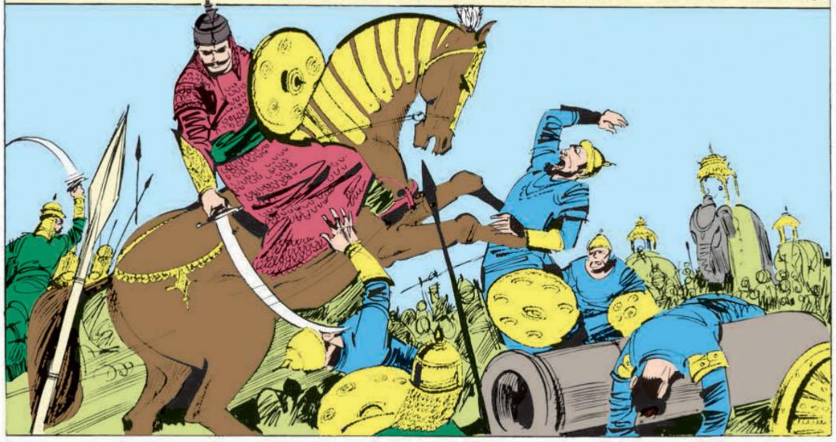

LET US STOP THIS IDLE CHATTER AND ATTACK.
WE CAN'T.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE THE WAY TO PRATAP'S FORT LIES THROUGH THAT NARROW VALLEY AND...
...PRATAP'S SOLDIERS ARE WAITING THERE TO TRAP US. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEM TO ATTACK FIRST.
AFTER A LONG WAIT –
WE CAN'T WAIT INDEFINITELY. LET US ATTACK AT ONCE.
NO, PRINCE SALIM!
SIR, I HAVE FOUND A LONG BUT EASY PATH LEADING TO PRATAP'S FORT.


GOOD, TAKE ENOUGH SOLDIERS AND ATTACK THE FORT FROM THE REAR.
YES SIR!
AND A STRONG MUGHAL FORCE MARCHED OFF TO SURROUND RANA PRATAP'S FORT.
WHEN RANA PRATAP HEARD ABOUT THIS NEW TROOP MOVEMENT, HE WAS WORRIED.
THE BEST STRATEGY WOULD HAVE BEEN TO FIGHT FROM THE FORT BUT NOW WE HAVE TO FACE THEM IN HALDI-GHATI.
FINALLY IN THE VALLEY CALLED HALDI-GHATI —
ATTACK!

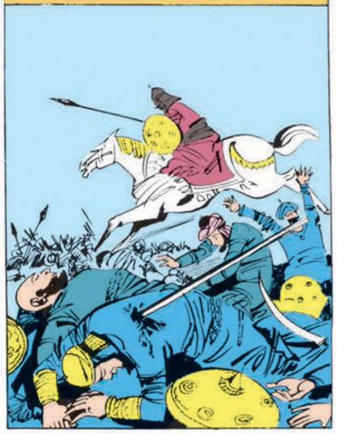
PRATAP AND HIS SOLDIERS CHARGED FIERCELY.



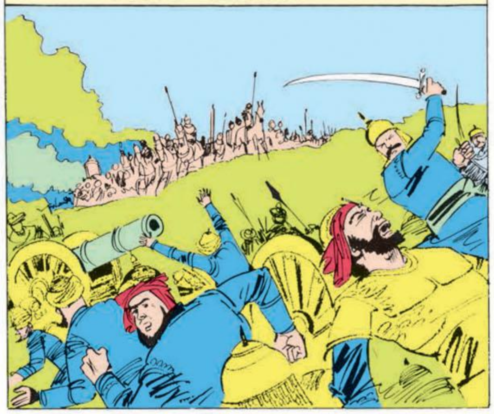
EVEN PRATAP'S FAITHFUL HORSE CHETAK PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE.

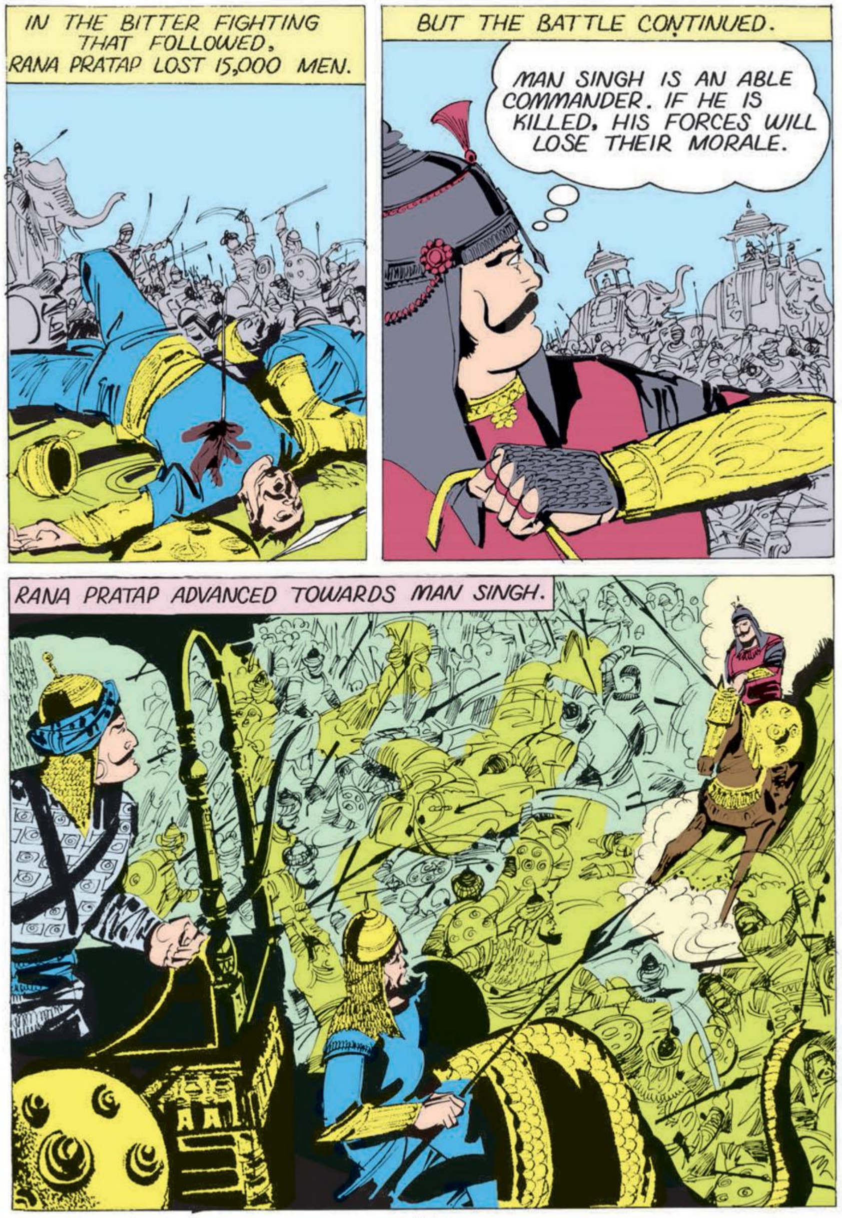


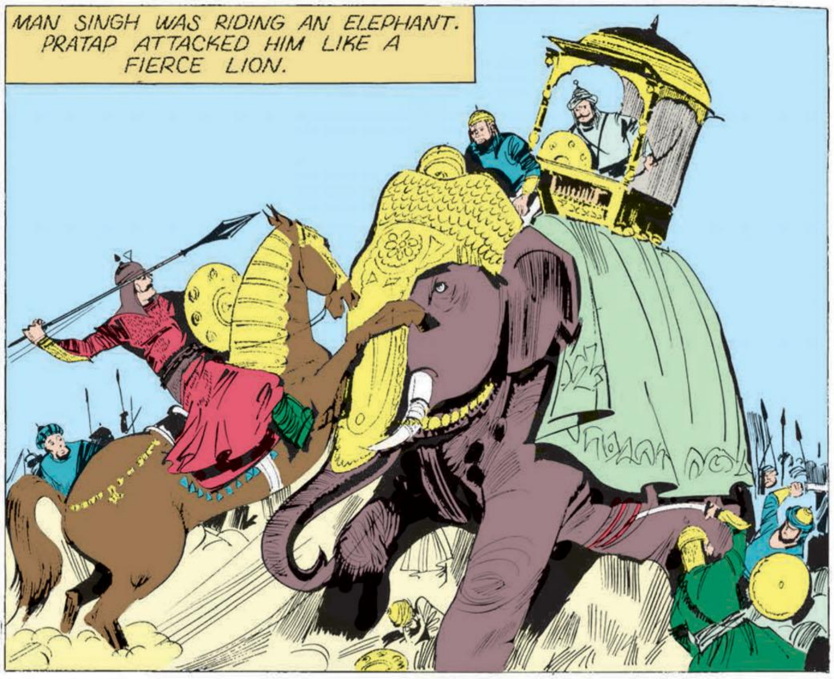
THE MUGHAL FORCES SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.



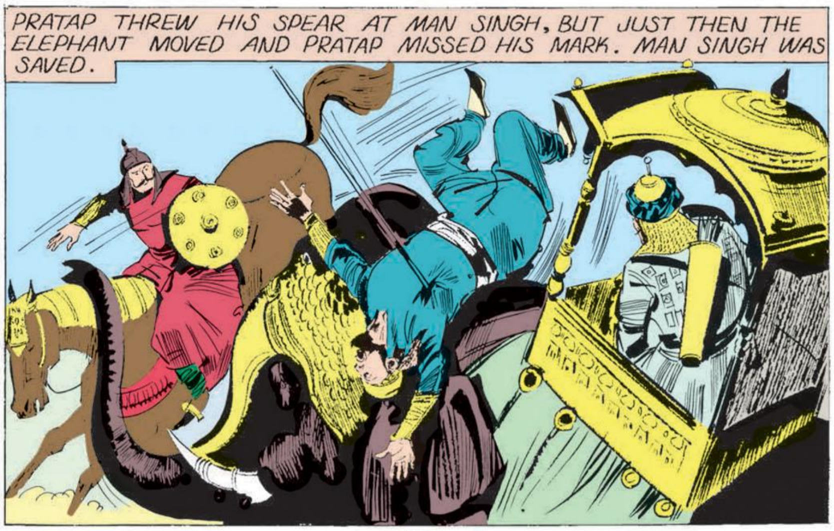
BUT JUST WHEN THE MUGHALS STARTED TO LOSE, MORE OF THEIR TROOPS ARRIVED.



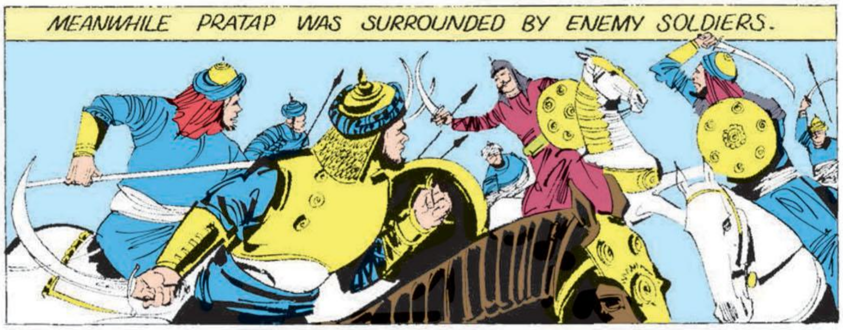

IN THE BITTER FIGHTING THAT FOLLOWED, RANA PRATAP LOST 15,000 MEN.
BUT THE BATTLE CONTINUED.
MAN SINGH IS AN ABLE COMMANDER. IF HE IS KILLED, HIS FORCES WILL LOSE THEIR MORALE.
RANA PRATAP ADVANCED TOWARDS MAN SINGH.

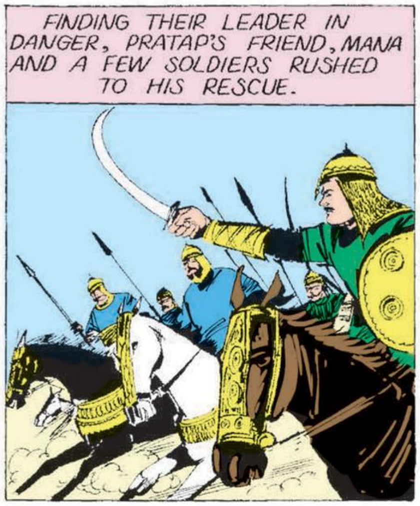


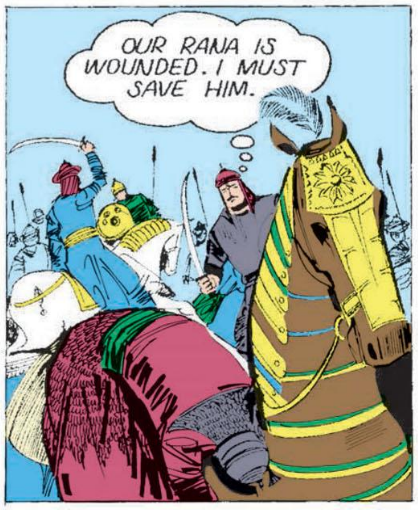
MAN SINGH WAS RIDING AN ELEPHANT. PRATAP ATTACKED HIM LIKE A FIERCE LION.

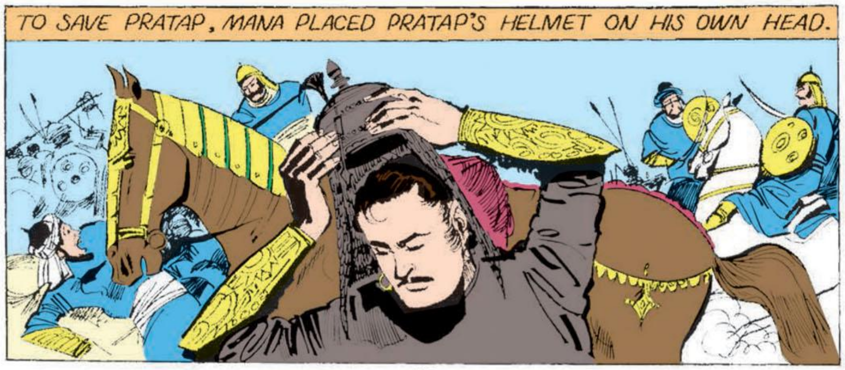


PRATAP THREW HIS SPEAR AT MAN SINGH, BUT JUST THEN THE ELEPHANT MOVED AND PRATAP MISSED HIS MARK. MAN SINGH WAS SAVED.

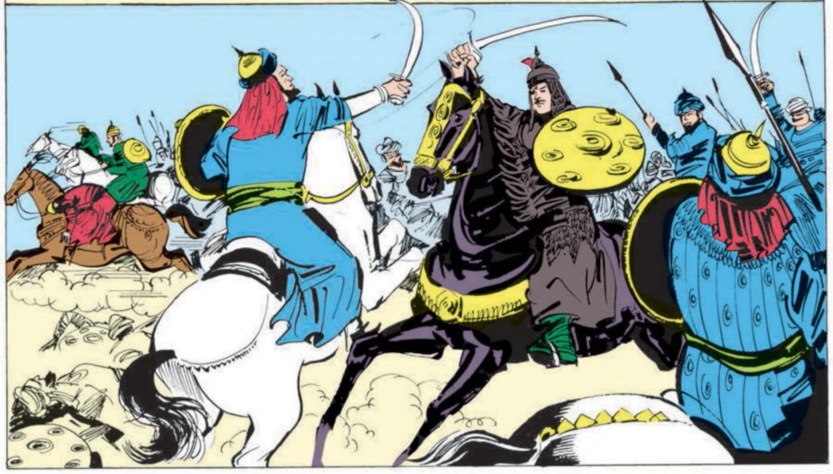

MEANWHILE PRATAP WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMY SOLDIERS.


FINDING THEIR LEADER IN DANGER, PRATAP'S FRIEND, MANA AND A FEW SOLDIERS RUSHED TO HIS RESCUE.

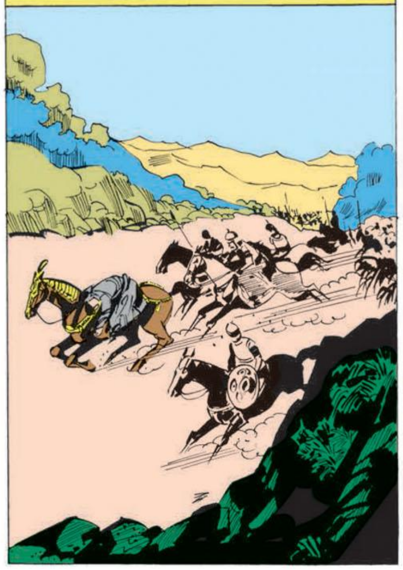

OUR RANA IS WOUNDED. I MUST SAVE HIM.


TO SAVE PRATAP, MANA PLACED PRATAP'S HELMET ON HIS OWN HEAD.

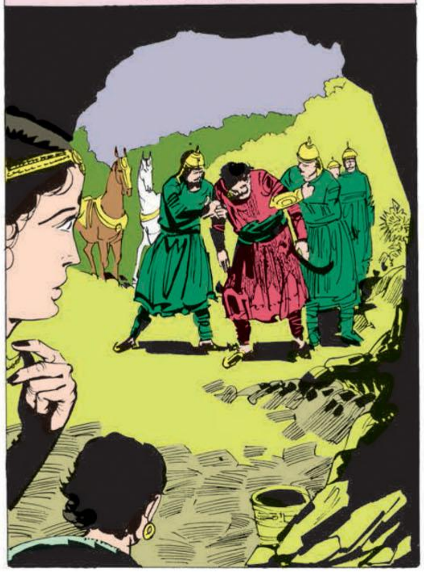
THE MUGHAL SOLDIERS WERE FOOLED. THEY ATTACKED MANA, MISTAKING HIM FOR PRATAP. WHILE MANA FACED THE ENEMY, PRATAP WAS CARRIED AWAY BY HIS FAITHFUL HORSE, CHETAK.

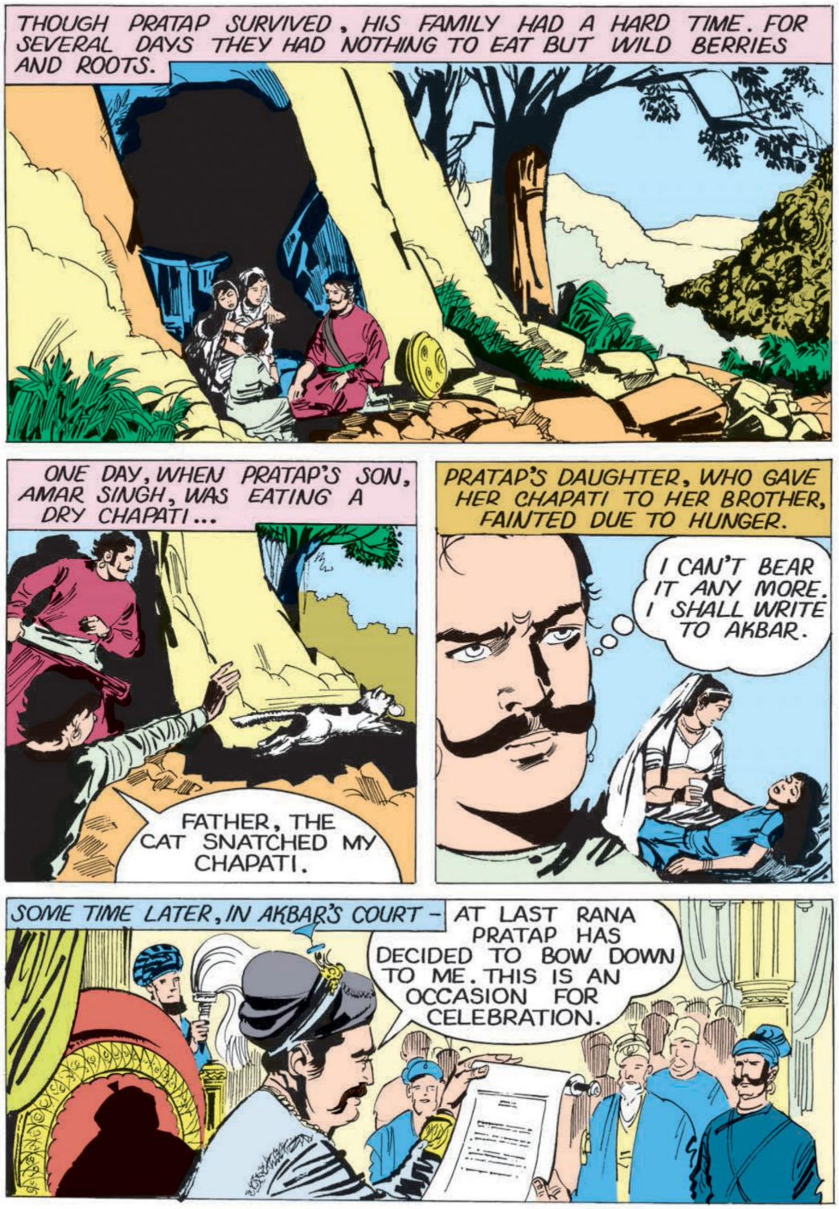


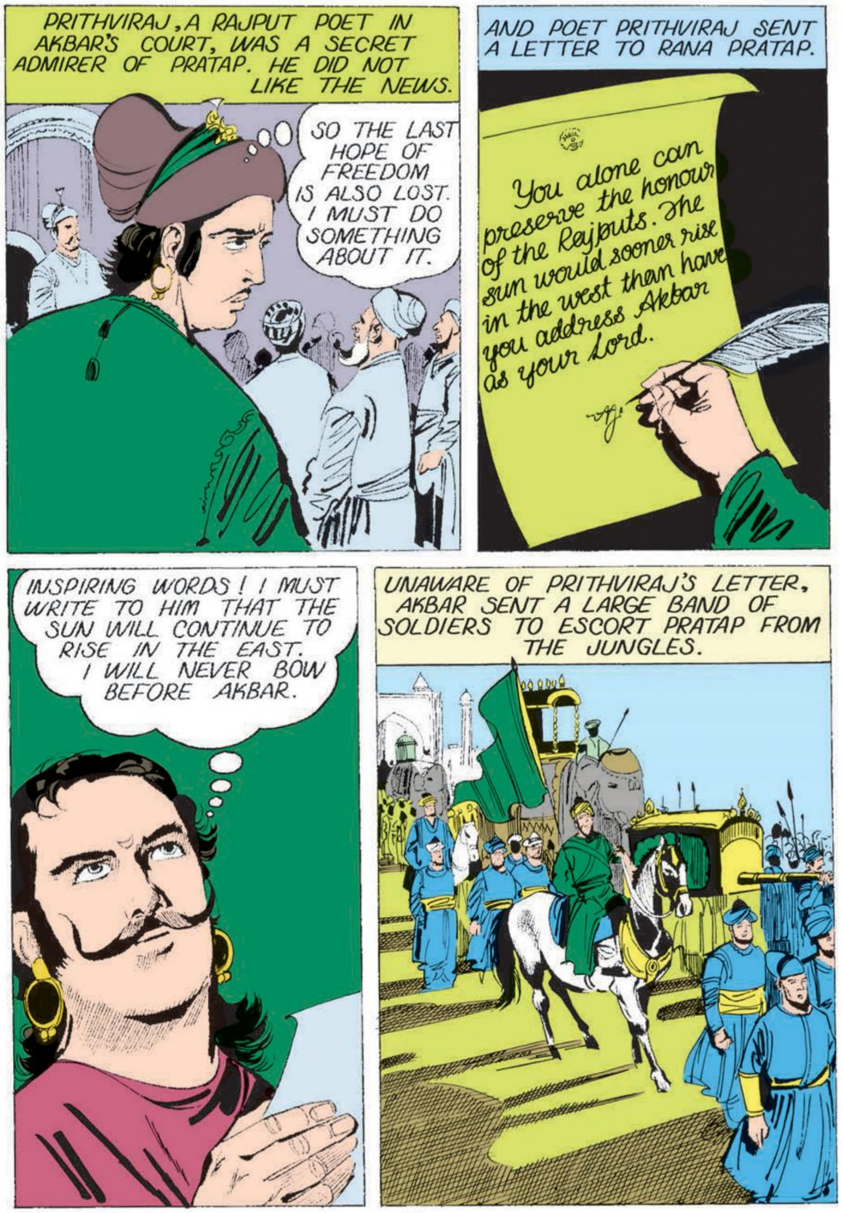
SOME RAJPUT SOLDIERS RODE WITH CHETAK TO PROTECT THE UNCONSCIOUS RANA.

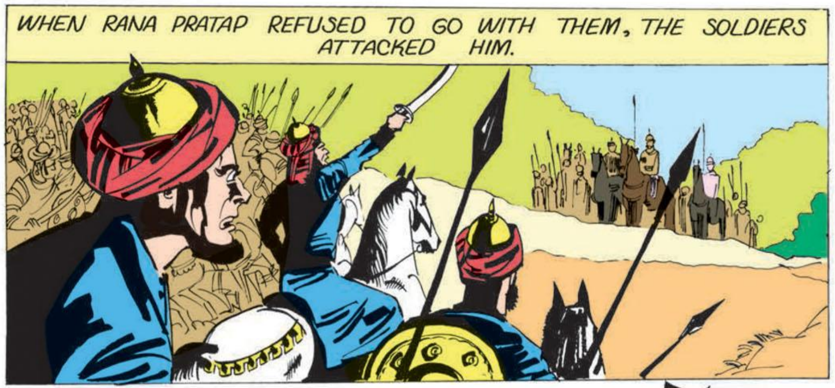


THE WOUNDED PRATAP WAS TAKEN TO A CAVE IN THE JUNGLES.

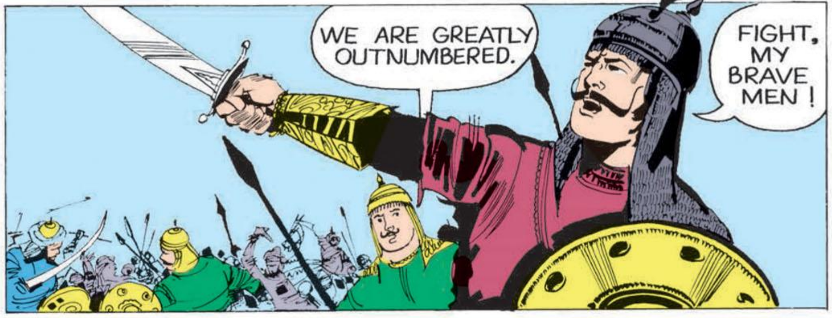


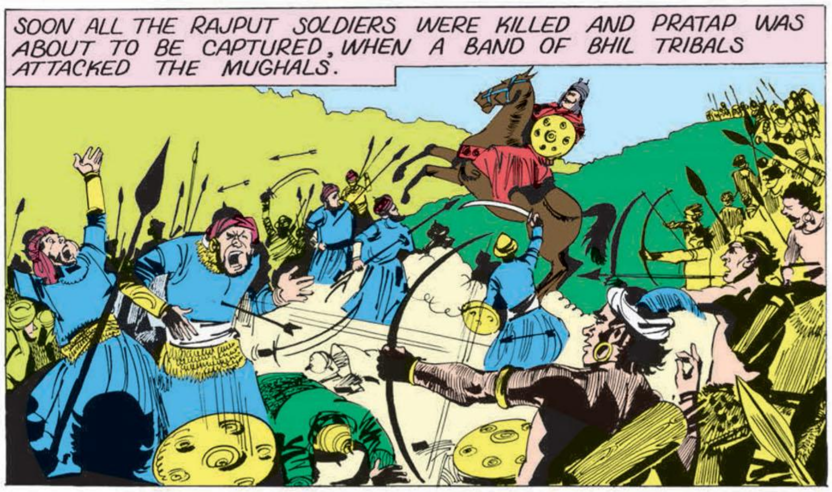

THOUGH PRATAP SURVIVED, HIS FAMILY HAD A HARD TIME. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THEY HAD NOTHING TO EAT BUT WILD BERRIES AND ROOTS.
ONE DAY, WHEN PRATAP'S SON, AMAR SINGH, WAS EATING A DRY CHAPATI...
FATHER, THE CAT SNATCHED MY CHAPATI.
PRATAP'S DAUGHTER, WHO GAVE HER CHAPATI TO HER BROTHER, FAINTED DUE TO HUNGER.
I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY MORE. I SHALL WRITE TO AKBAR.
SOME TIME LATER, IN AKBAR'S COURT –
AT LAST RANA PRATAP HAS DECIDED TO BOW DOWN TO ME. THIS IS AN OCCASION FOR CELEBRATION.


PRITHVIRAJ, A RAJPUT POET IN AKBAR'S COURT, WAS A SECRET ADMIRER OF PRATAP. HE DID NOT LIKE THE NEWS.
SO THE LAST HOPE OF FREEDOM IS ALSO LOST. I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
AND POET PRITHVIRAJ SENT A LETTER TO RANA PRATAP.
You alone can preserve the honour of the Rajputs. The sun would sooner rise in the west than have you address Akbar as your Lord.
INSPIRING WORDS! I MUST WRITE TO HIM THAT THE SUN WILL CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE EAST. I WILL NEVER BOW BEFORE AKBAR.
UNAWARE OF PRITHVIRAJ'S LETTER, AKBAR SENT A LARGE BAND OF SOLDIERS TO ESCORT PRATAP FROM THE JUNGLES.

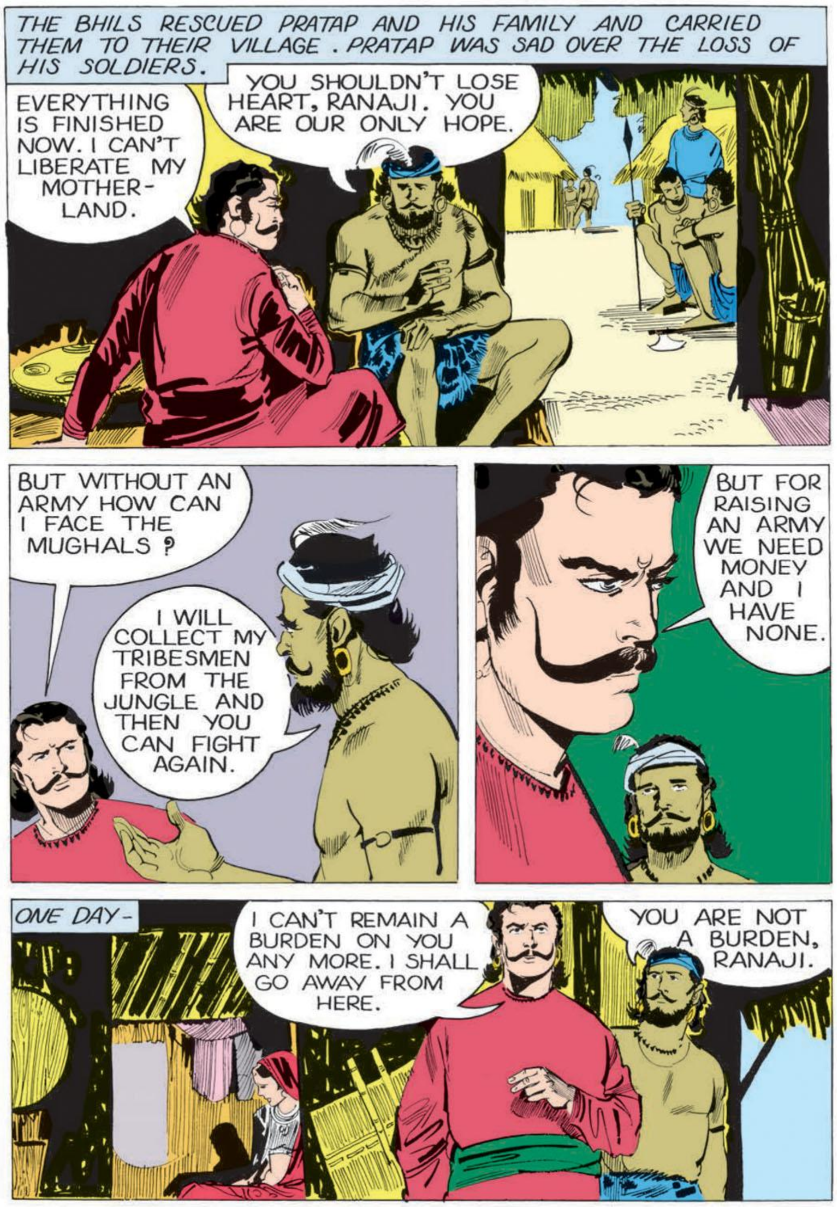


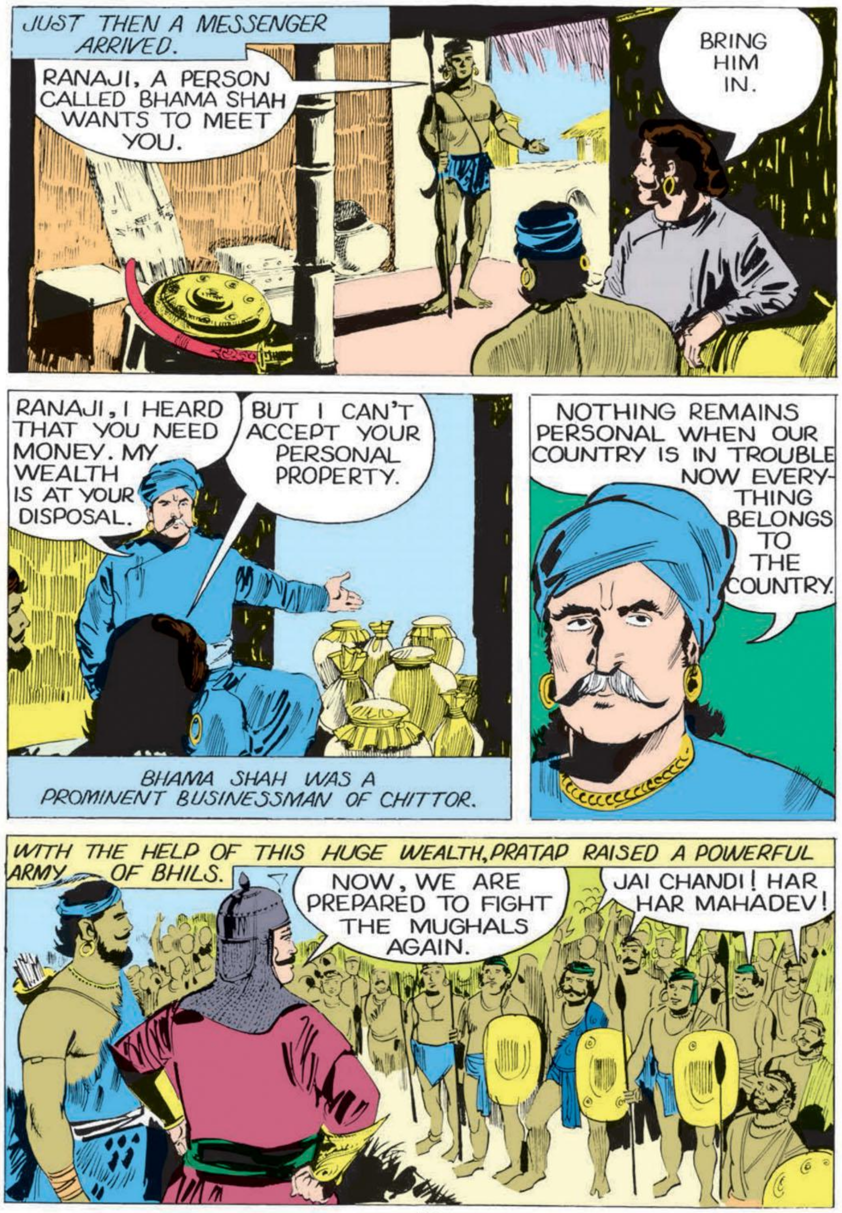
WHEN RANA PRATAP REFUSED TO GO WITH THEM, THE SOLDIERS ATTACKED HIM.

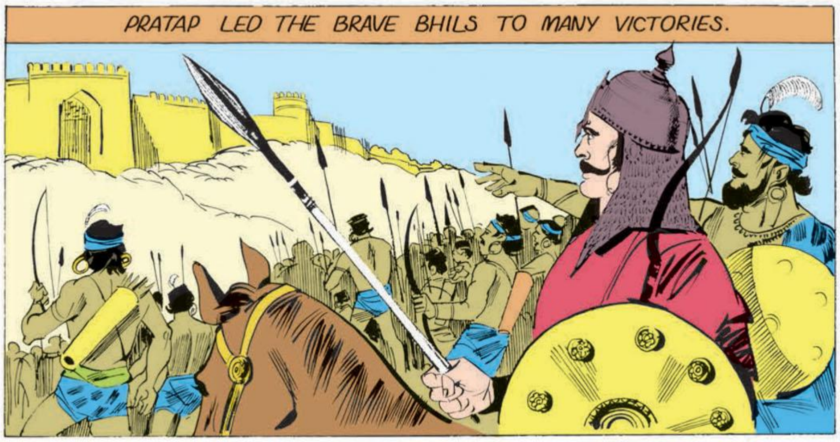

WE ARE GREATLY OUTNUMBERED.
FIGHT, MY BRAVE MEN !



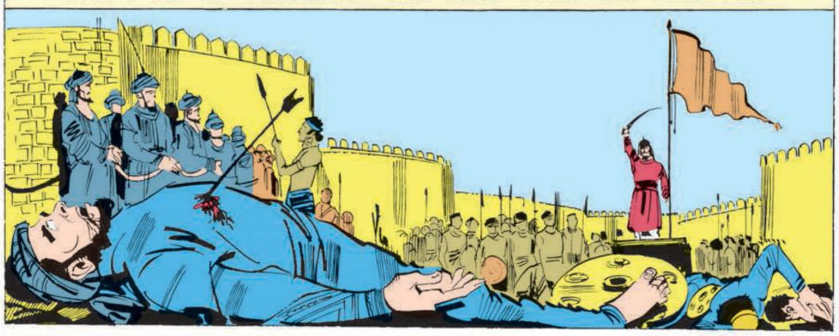
SOON ALL THE RAJPUT SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND PRATAP WAS ABOUT TO BE CAPTURED, WHEN A BAND OF BHIL TRIBALS ATTACKED THE MUGHALS.


THE BHILS RESCUED PRATAP AND HIS FAMILY AND CARRIED THEM TO THEIR VILLAGE . PRATAP WAS SAD OVER THE LOSS OF HIS SOLDIERS .
EVERYTHING IS FINISHED NOW. I CAN'T LIBERATE MY MOTHER-LAND.
YOU SHOULDN'T LOSE HEART, RANAJI. YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE.
BUT WITHOUT AN ARMY HOW CAN I FACE THE MUGHALS ?
I WILL COLLECT MY TRIBESMEN FROM THE JUNGLE AND THEN YOU CAN FIGHT AGAIN.
BUT FOR RAISING AN ARMY WE NEED MONEY AND I HAVE NONE.
ONE DAY-
I CAN'T REMAIN A BURDEN ON YOU ANY MORE. I SHALL GO AWAY FROM HERE.
YOU ARE NOT A BURDEN, RANAJI.

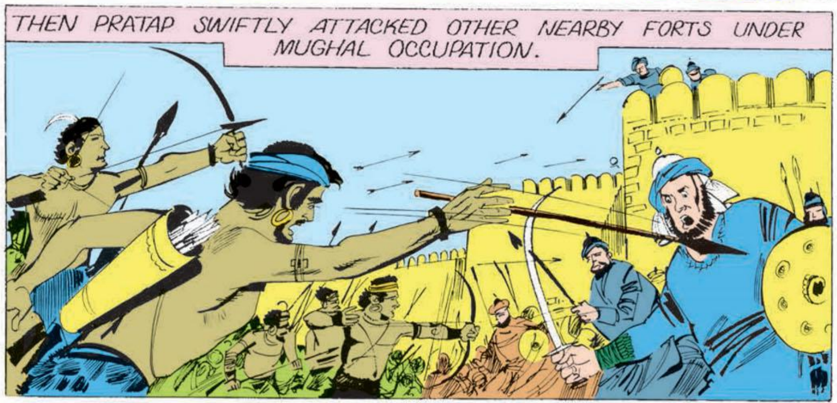

JUST THEN A MESSENGER ARRIVED.
RANAJI, A PERSON CALLED BHAMA SHAH WANTS TO MEET YOU.
BRING HIM IN.
RANAJI, I HEARD THAT YOU NEED MONEY. MY WEALTH IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY.
BHAMA SHAH WAS A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN OF CHITTOR.
NOTHING REMAINS PERSONAL WHEN OUR COUNTRY IS IN TROUBLE NOW EVERYTHING BELONGS TO THE COUNTRY.
WITH THE HELP OF THIS HUGE WEALTH, PRATAP RAISED A POWERFUL ARMY OF BHILS.
NOW, WE ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT THE MUGHALS AGAIN.
JAI CHANDI! HAR HAR MAHADEV!



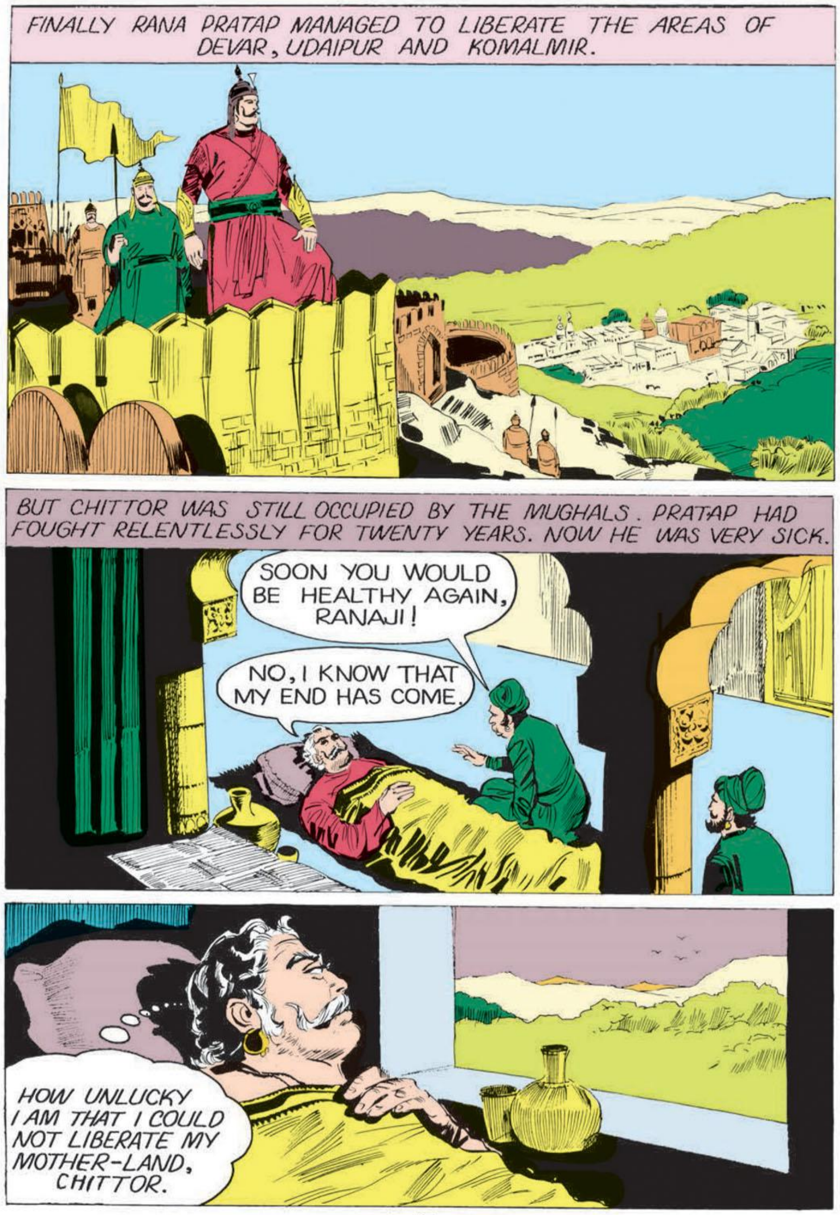
PRATAP LED THE BRAVE BHILS TO MANY VICTORIES.



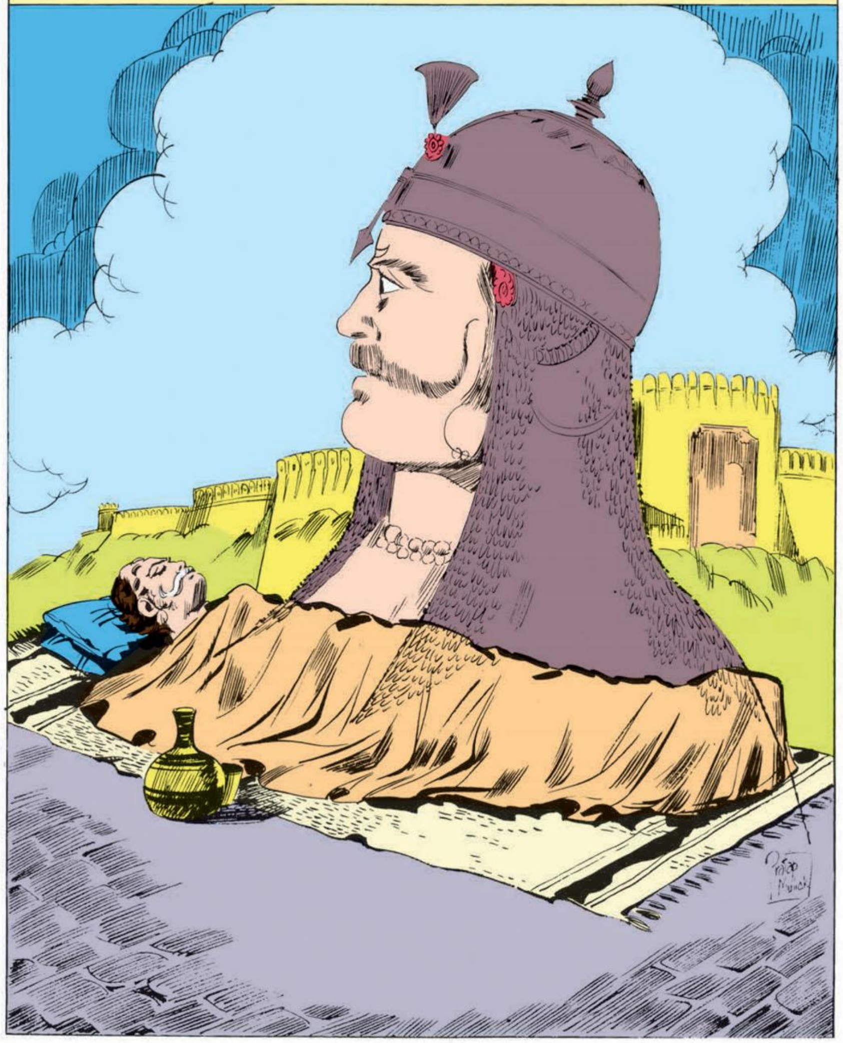
THE FORT OF PHINSAHRA WAS WON FROM THE MUGHALS.



THEN PRATAP SWIFTLY ATTACKED OTHER NEARBY FORTS UNDER MUGHAL OCCUPATION.


FINALLY RANA PRATAP MANAGED TO LIBERATE THE AREAS OF DEVAR, UDAIPUR AND KOMALMIR.
BUT CHITTOR WAS STILL OCCUPIED BY THE MUGHALS. PRATAP HAD FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY FOR TWENTY YEARS. NOW HE WAS VERY SICK.
SOON YOU WOULD BE HEALTHY AGAIN, RANAJI!
NO, I KNOW THAT MY END HAS COME.
HOW UNLUCKY I AM THAT I COULD NOT LIBERATE MY MOTHER-LAND, CHITTOR.

THUS WITH HIS DREAM ONLY PARTIALLY FULFILLED, RANA PRATAP PASSED AWAY. TILL THE LAST DAY OF HIS LIFE, HE STRICTLY ADHERED TO HIS OATH. EVEN WHEN HE WAS SICK, HE DID NOT SLEEP ON A COMFORTABLE BED, BUT ON THE GROUND. THUS RANA PRATAP SET AN EXAMPLE TO LEADERS OF ALL TIMES THAT THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO LIVE IN LUXURY WHEN THE COUNTRY SUFFERED.



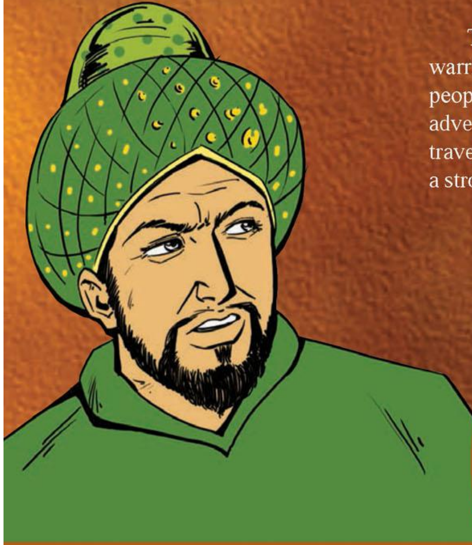
# Conquerors

Raja Raja Chola extended the mighty Tamil Chola Empire up to Orissa in the North and Sri Lanka in the South. He also maintained one of the greatest naval forces of his time.

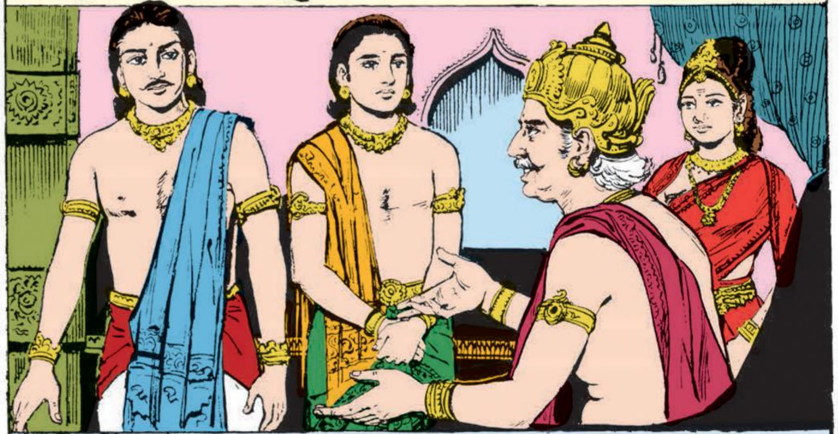
Lalitaditya, the legendary king of Kashmir, decided to become a Digvijay - conqueror of all four directions. He set out with his army, and warred his way right around India, from Bengal, to the South, up the Western coast into Rajasthan and back home. When he had set his kingdom at peace, he decided that inaction did not suit him, and walked away, seeking further adventure.

Babur swept into India in 1526 CE, from the distant plains of Central Asia, laying the foundation for the powerful Mughal Empire. An empire that would come to dominate North India over the next few centuries.

The kings in this collection were not ordinary warriors, fighting to defend themselves – they were people who were filled with a thirst for travel, for adventure, for new lands, new cultures. In their travels they carved out new empires and gave them a strong base on which their successors could build.

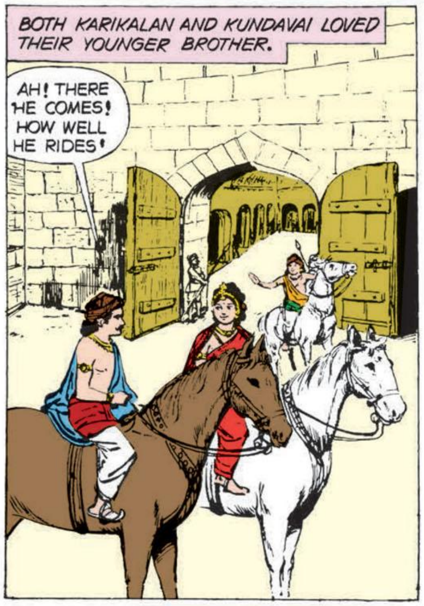


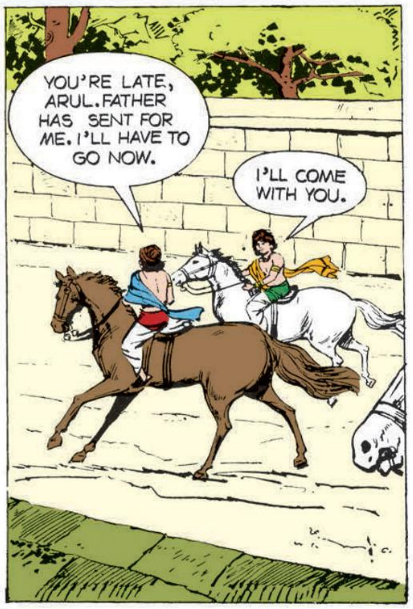
# RAJA RAJA CHOLA

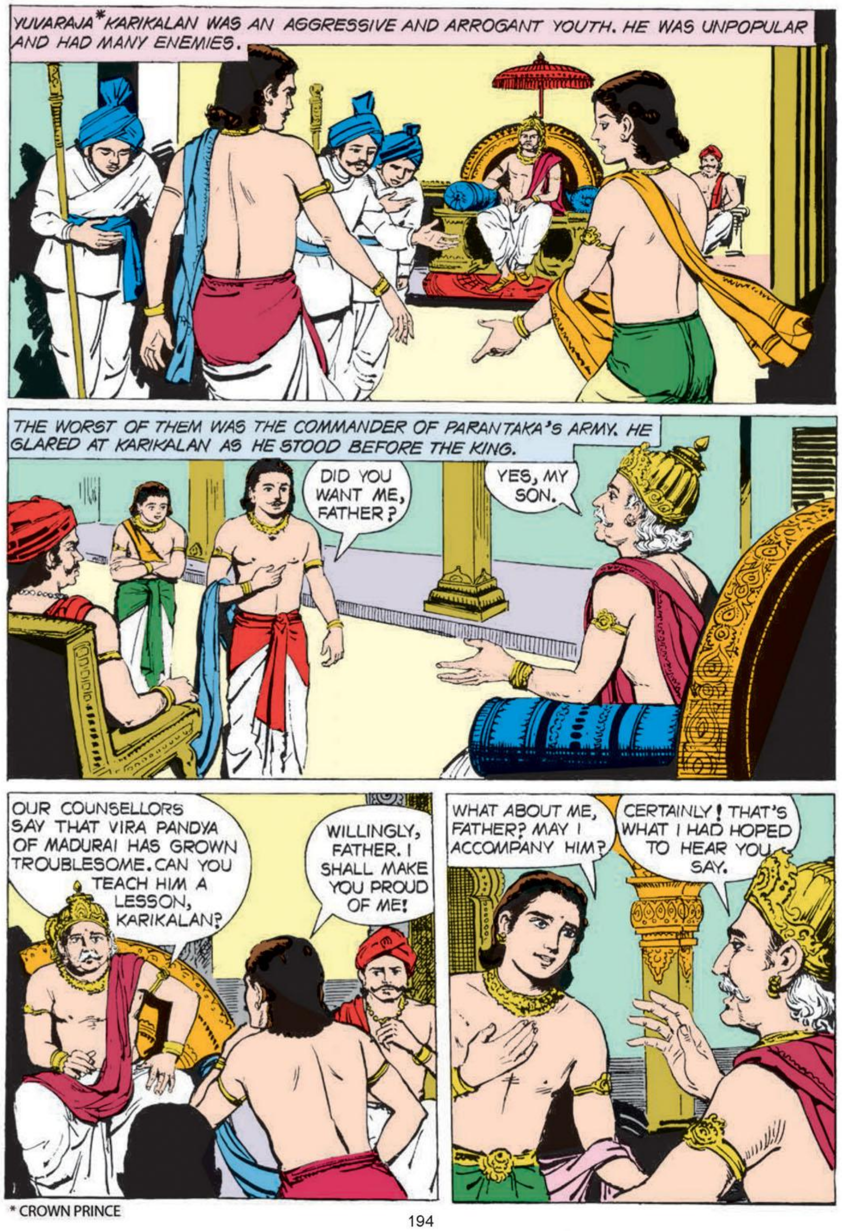


ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, PARANTAKA CHOLA II RULED OVER TANJAVUR IN SOUTH INDIA. HE HAD THREE CHILDREN, ADITYA KARIKALAN, ARUL MOZHI VERMAN AND KUNDAVAI.

BOTH KARIKALAN AND KUNDAVAI LOVED THEIR YOUNGER BROTHER.

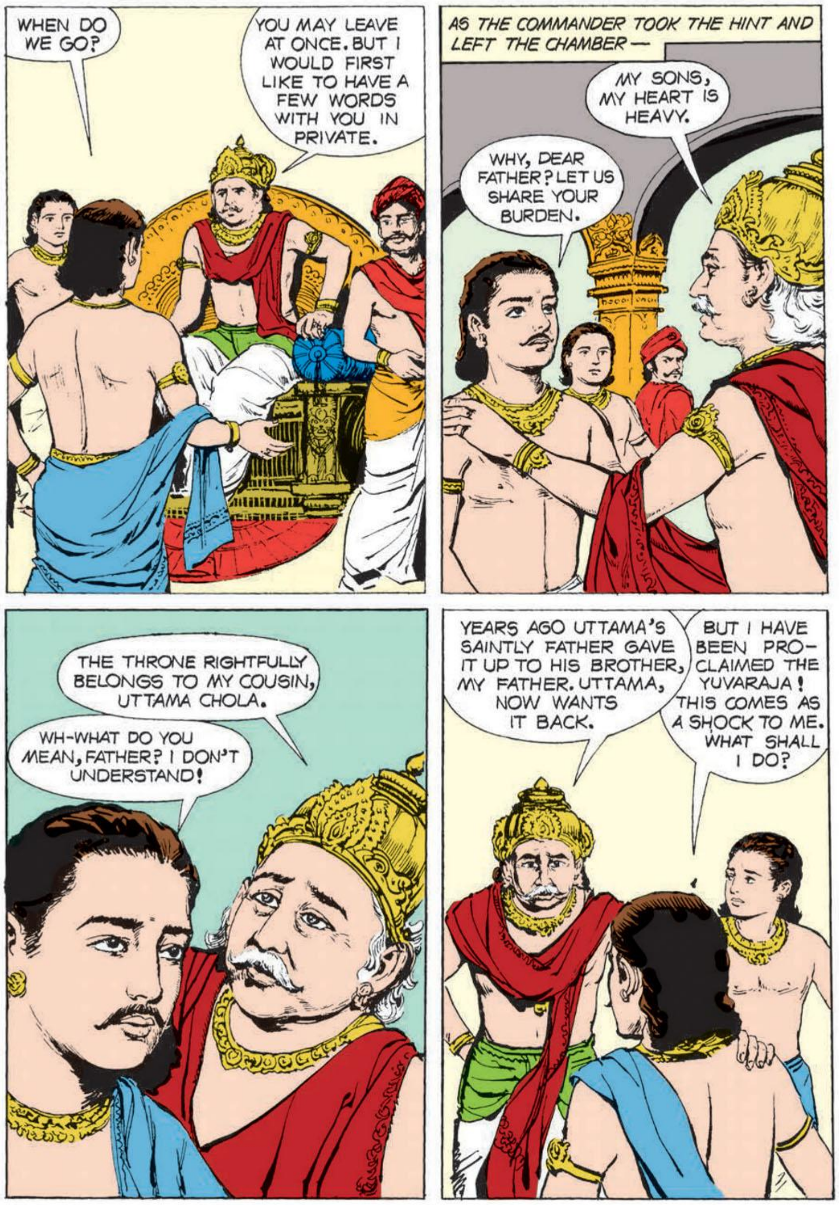

AH! THERE HE COMES! HOW WELL HE RIDES!

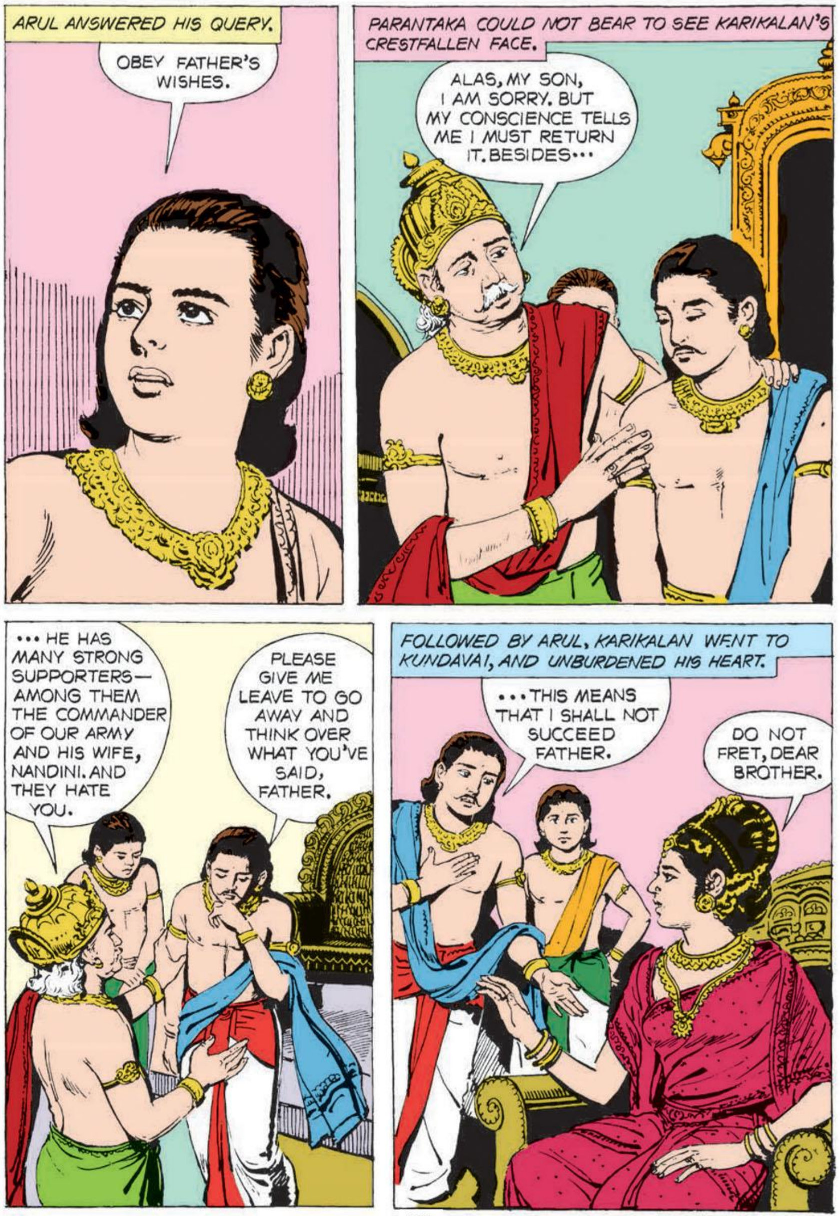

YOU'RE LATE, ARUL. FATHER HAS SENT FOR ME. I'LL HAVE TO GO NOW.
I'LL COME WITH YOU.

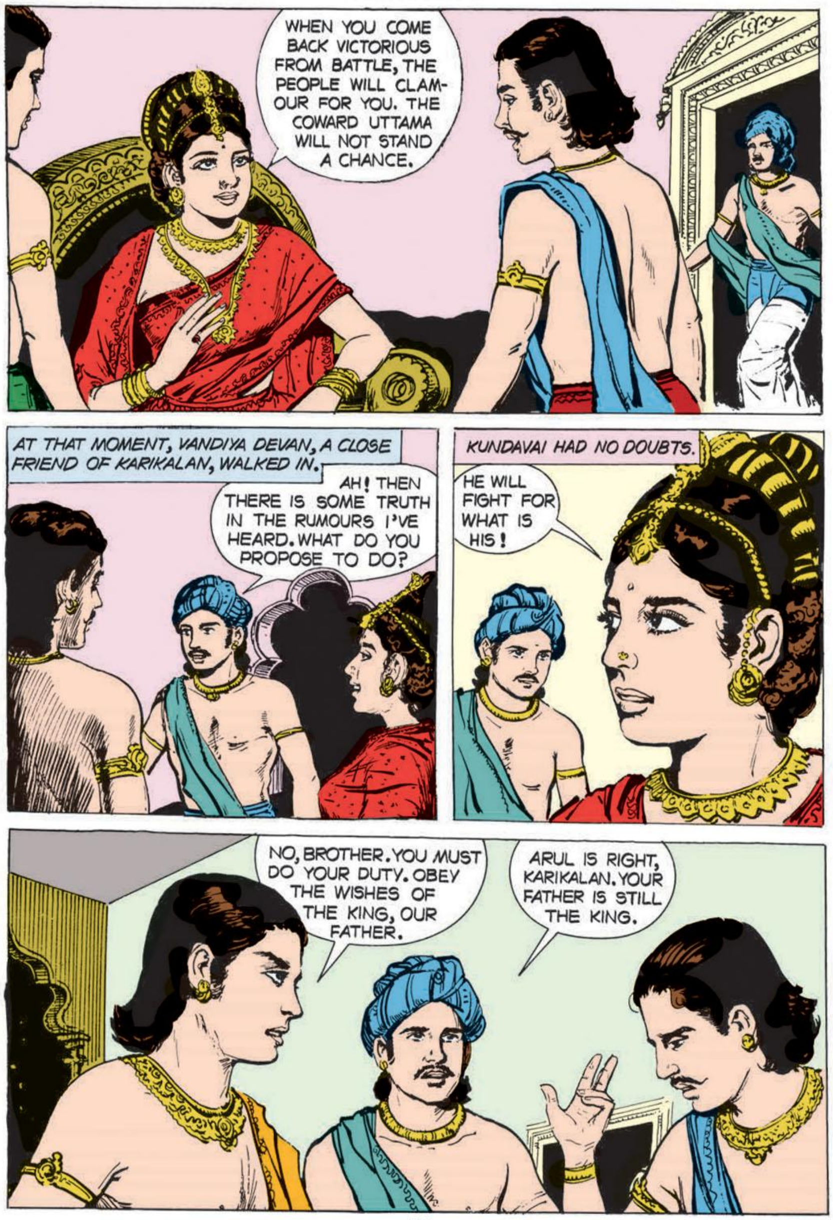

YUVARAJA* KARIKALAN WAS AN AGGRESSIVE AND ARROGANT YOUTH. HE WAS UNPOPULAR AND HAD MANY ENEMIES.
THE WORST OF THEM WAS THE COMMANDER OF PARANTAKA'S ARMY. HE GLARED AT KARIKALAN AS HE STOOD BEFORE THE KING.
DID YOU WANT ME, FATHER?
YES, MY SON.
OUR COUNSELLORS SAY THAT VIRA PANDYA OF MADURAI HAS GROWN TROUBLESOME. CAN YOU TEACH HIM A LESSON, KARIKALAN?
WILLINGLY, FATHER. I SHALL MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME!
WHAT ABOUT ME, FATHER? MAY I ACCOMPANY HIM?
CERTAINLY! THAT'S WHAT I HAD HOPED TO HEAR YOU SAY.

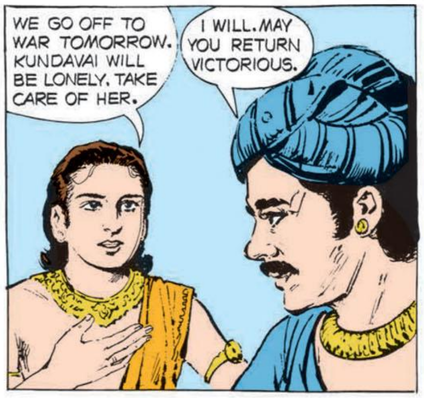
---

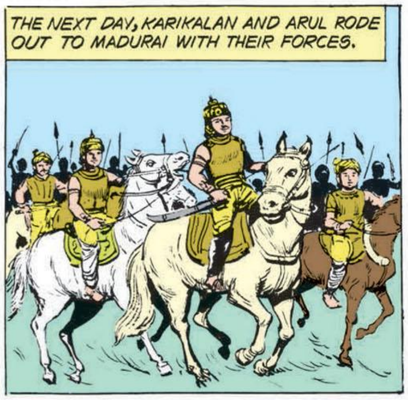
* CROWN PRINCE

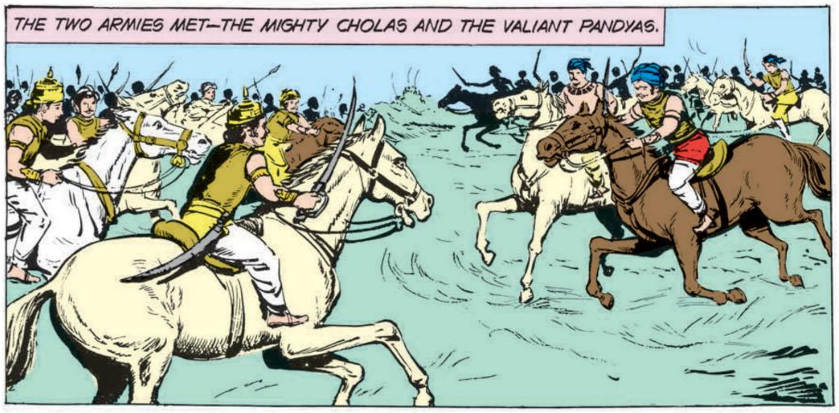

WHEN DO WE GO?
YOU MAY LEAVE AT ONCE. BUT I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU IN PRIVATE.
AS THE COMMANDER TOOK THE HINT AND LEFT THE CHAMBER —
MY SONS, MY HEART IS HEAVY.
WHY, DEAR FATHER? LET US SHARE YOUR BURDEN.
THE THRONE RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO MY COUSIN, UTTAMA CHOLA.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FATHER? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
YEARS AGO UTTAMA'S SAINTLY FATHER GAVE IT UP TO HIS BROTHER, MY FATHER. UTTAMA, NOW WANTS IT BACK.
BUT I HAVE BEEN PROCLAIMED THE YUVARAJA! THIS COMES AS A SHOCK TO ME. WHAT SHALL I DO?

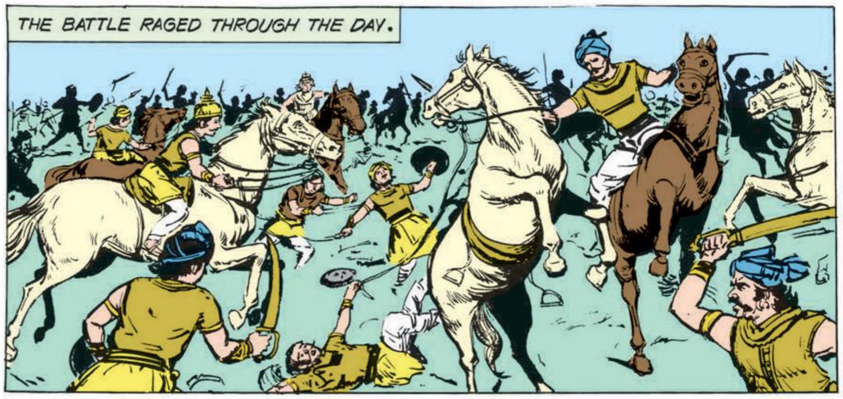

ARUL ANSWERED HIS QUERY.
OBEY FATHER'S WISHES.
PARANTAKA COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE KARIKALAN'S CRESTFALLEN FACE.
ALAS, MY SON, I AM SORRY. BUT MY CONSCIENCE TELLS ME I MUST RETURN IT. BESIDES...
...HE HAS MANY STRONG SUPPORTERS— AMONG THEM THE COMMANDER OF OUR ARMY AND HIS WIFE, NANDINI. AND THEY HATE YOU.
PLEASE GIVE ME LEAVE TO GO AWAY AND THINK OVER WHAT YOU'VE SAID, FATHER.
FOLLOWED BY ARUL, KARIKALAN WENT TO KUNDAVAI, AND UNBURDENED HIS HEART.
...THIS MEANS THAT I SHALL NOT SUCCEED FATHER.
DO NOT FRET, DEAR BROTHER.

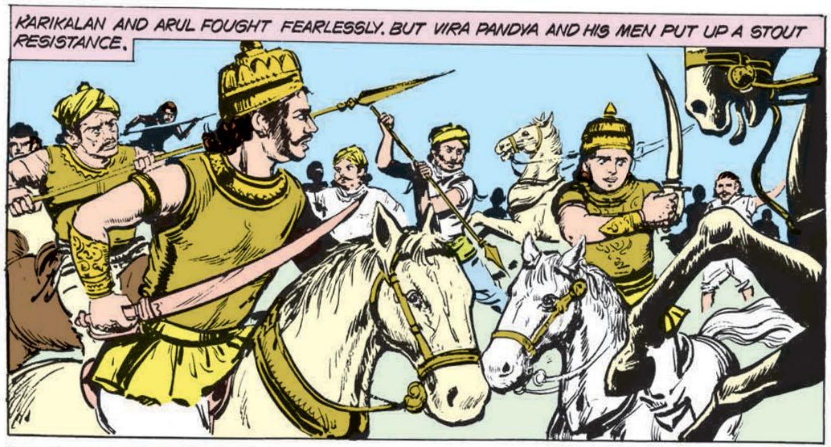

WHEN YOU COME BACK VICTORIOUS FROM BATTLE, THE PEOPLE WILL CLAMOUR FOR YOU. THE COWARD UTTAMA WILL NOT STAND A CHANCE.
AT THAT MOMENT, VANDIYA DEVAN, A CLOSE FRIEND OF KARIKALAN, WALKED IN.
AH! THEN THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THE RUMOURS I'VE HEARD. WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO?
KUNDAVAI HAD NO DOUBTS.
HE WILL FIGHT FOR WHAT IS HIS!
NO, BROTHER. YOU MUST DO YOUR DUTY. OBEY THE WISHES OF THE KING, OUR FATHER.
ARUL IS RIGHT, KARIKALAN. YOUR FATHER IS STILL THE KING.

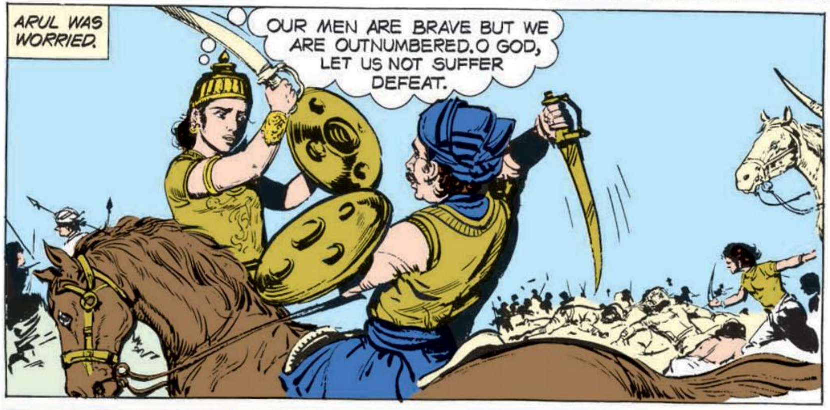

WE GO OFF TO WAR TOMORROW. KUNDAVAI WILL BE LONELY. TAKE CARE OF HER.
I WILL. MAY YOU RETURN VICTORIOUS.

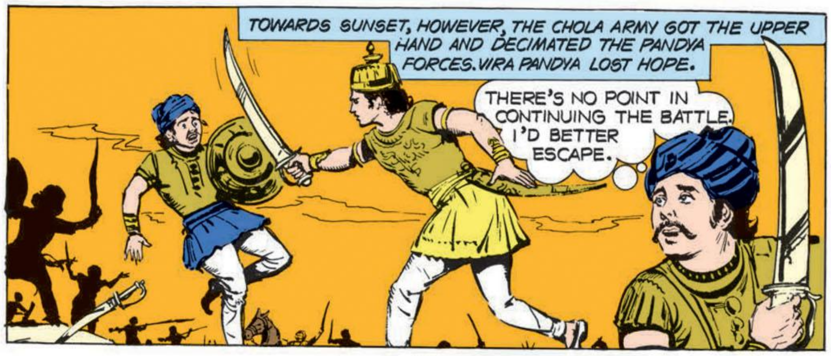

THE NEXT DAY, KARIKALAN AND ARUL RODE OUT TO MADURAI WITH THEIR FORCES.

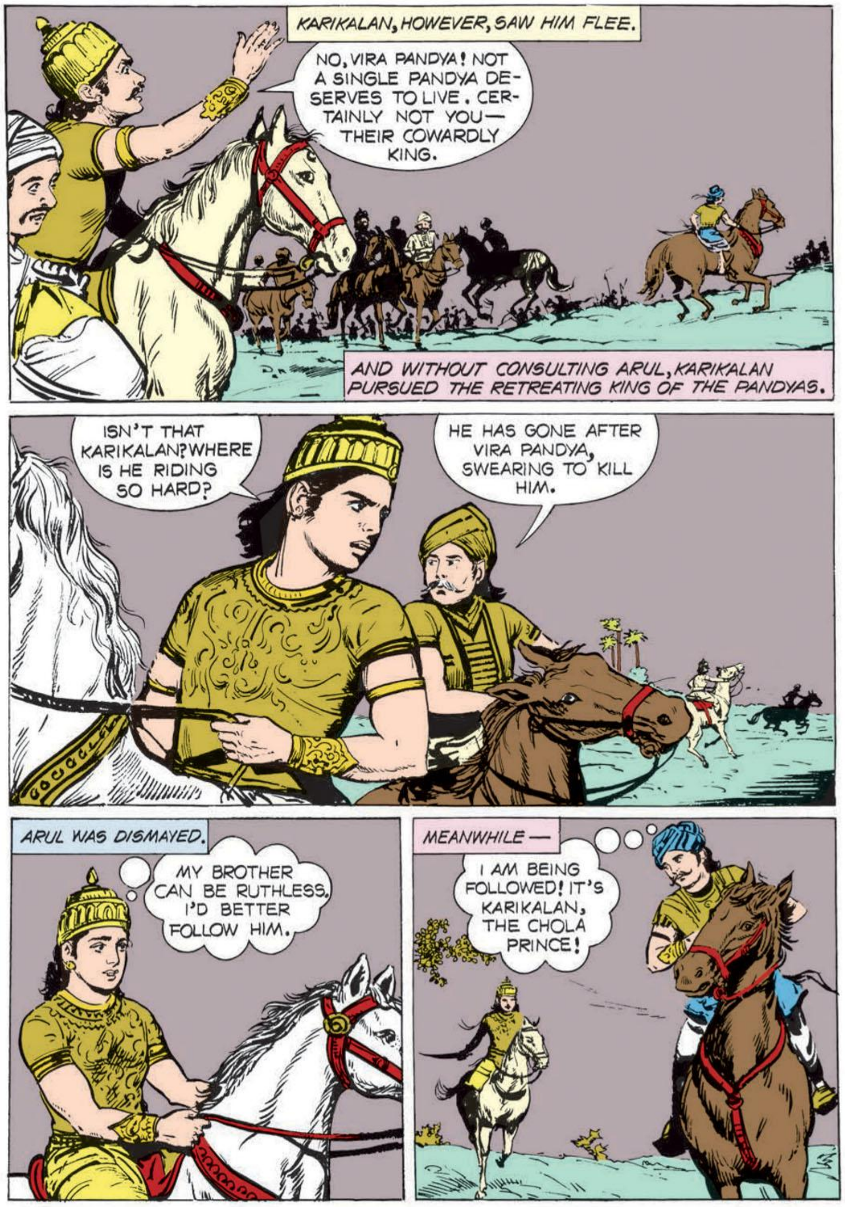

THE TWO ARMIES MET—THE MIGHTY CHOLAS AND THE VALIANT PANDYAS.

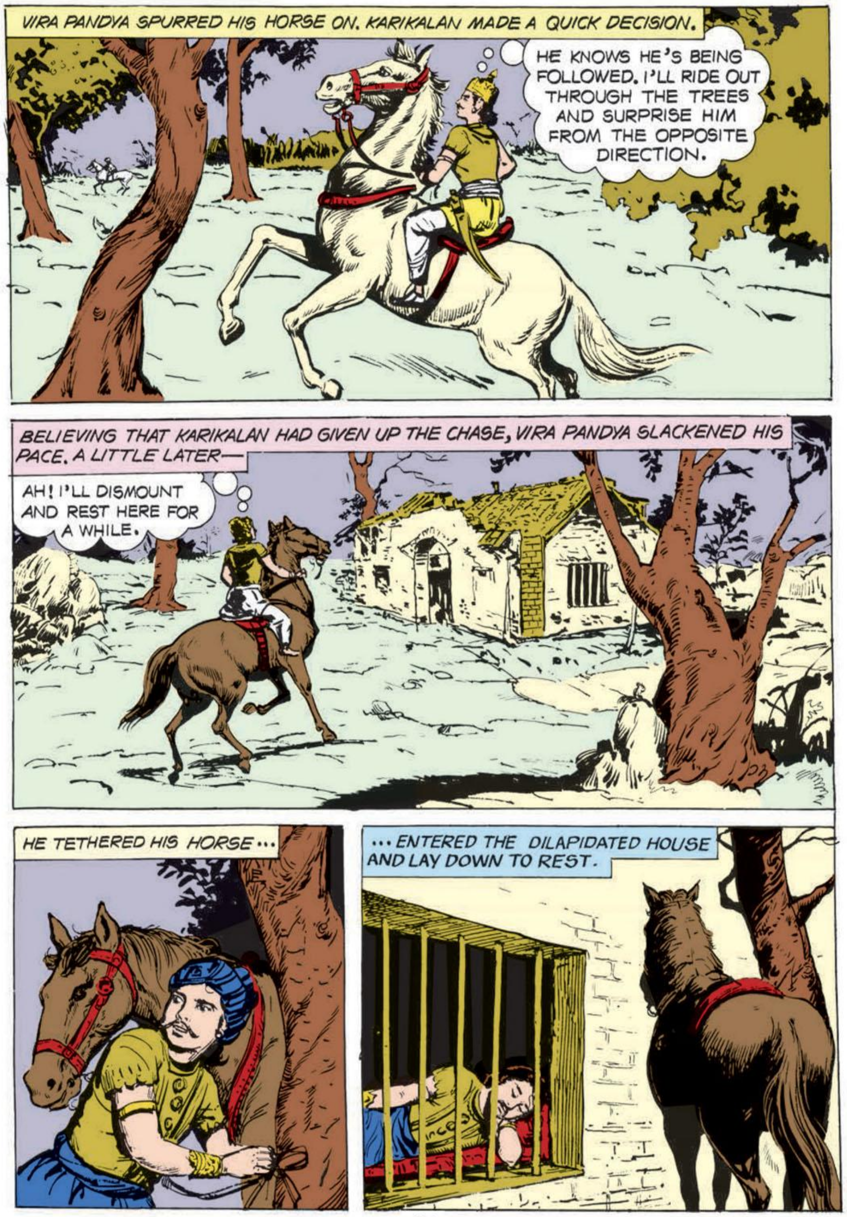

THE BATTLE RAGED THROUGH THE DAY.

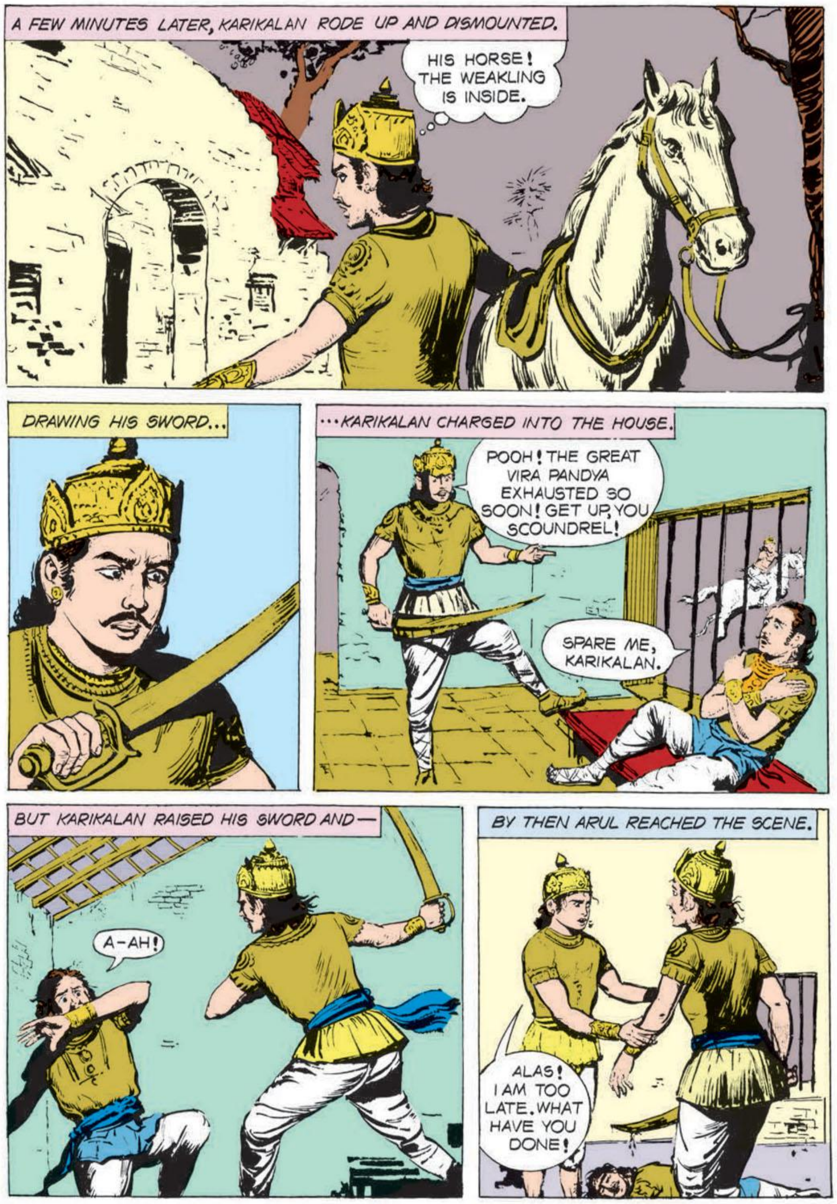

KARIKALAN AND ARUL FOUGHT FEARLESSLY. BUT VIRA PANDYA AND HIS MEN PUT UP A STOUT RESISTANCE.

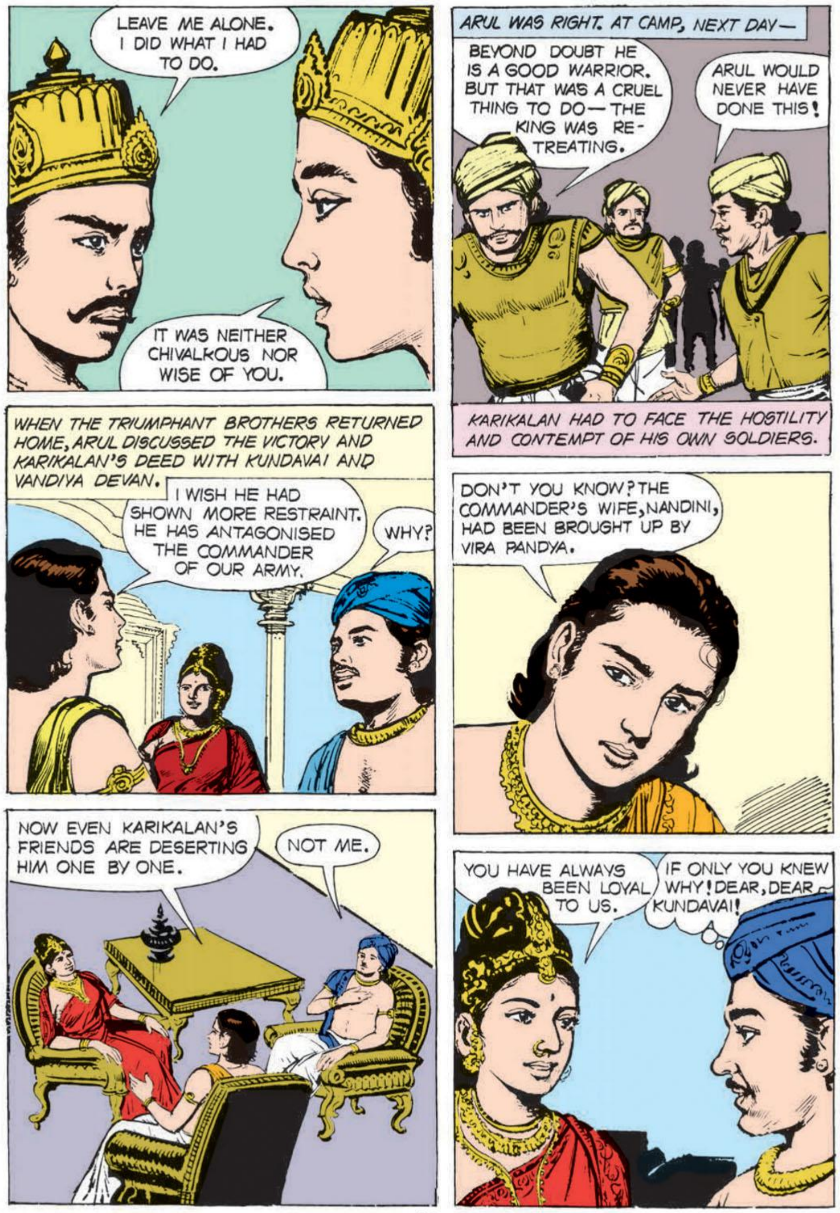

ARUL WAS WORRIED.
OUR MEN ARE BRAVE BUT WE ARE OUTNUMBERED. O GOD, LET US NOT SUFFER DEFEAT.

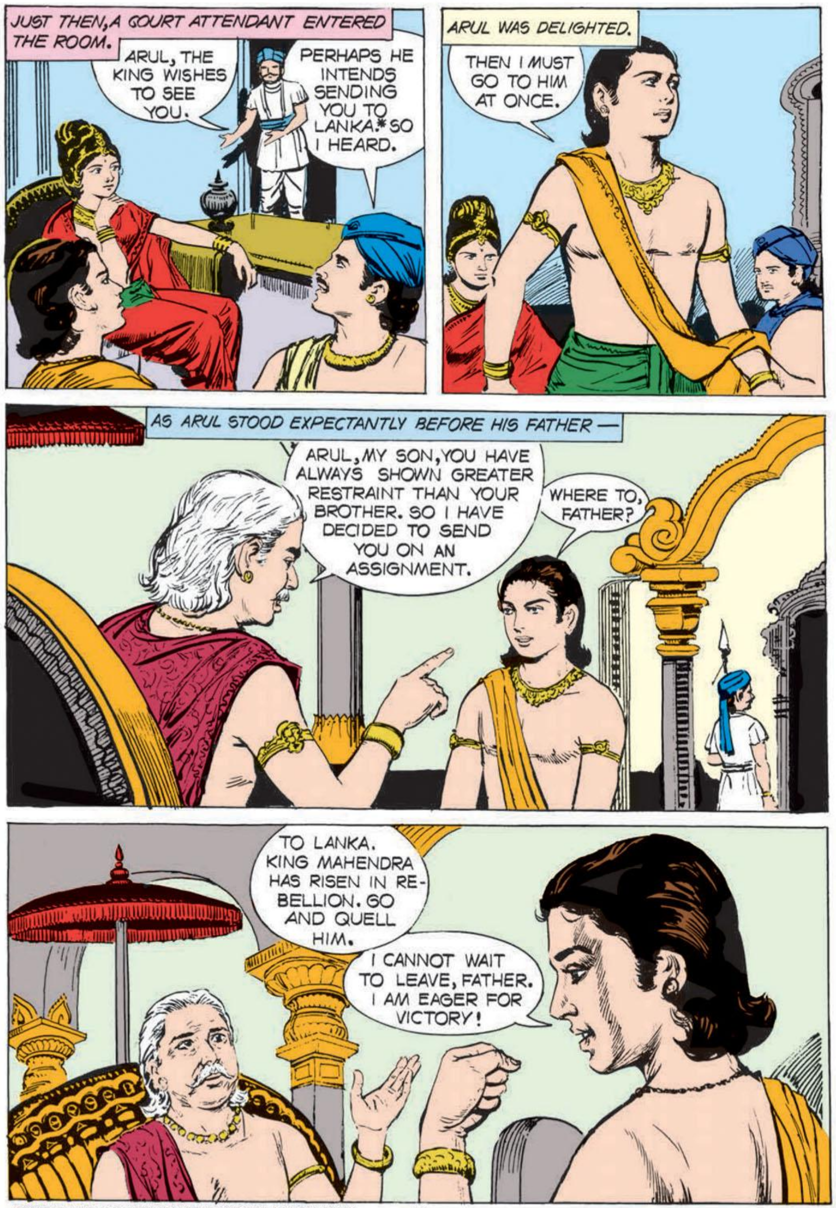

TOWARDS SUNSET, HOWEVER, THE CHOLA ARMY GOT THE UPPER HAND AND DECIMATED THE PANDYA FORCES. VIRA PANDYA LOST HOPE.
THERE'S NO POINT IN CONTINUING THE BATTLE. I'D BETTER ESCAPE.


KARIKALAN, HOWEVER, SAW HIM FLEE.
NO, VIRA PANDYA! NOT A SINGLE PANDYA DESERVES TO LIVE. CERTAINLY NOT YOU— THEIR COWARDLY KING.
AND WITHOUT CONSULTING ARUL, KARIKALAN PURSUED THE RETREATING KING OF THE PANDYAS.
ISN'T THAT KARIKALAN? WHERE IS HE RIDING SO HARD?
HE HAS GONE AFTER VIRA PANDYA, SWEARING TO KILL HIM.
ARUL WAS DISMAYED.
MY BROTHER CAN BE RUTHLESS. I'D BETTER FOLLOW HIM.
MEANWHILE —
I AM BEING FOLLOWED! IT'S KARIKALAN, THE CHOLA PRINCE!

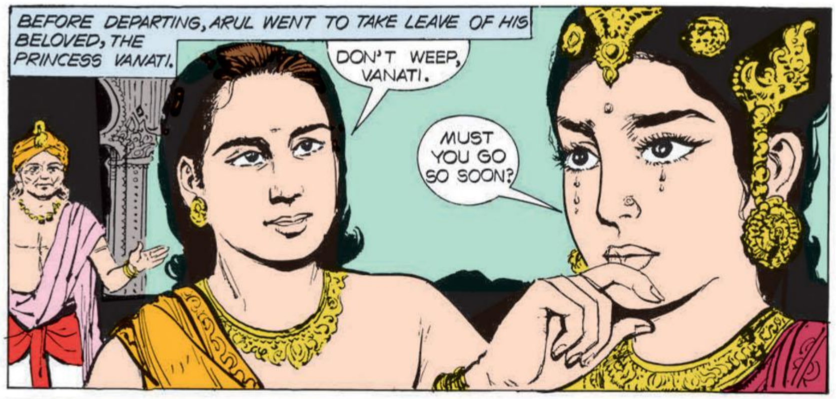

VIRA PANDYA SPURRED HIS HORSE ON. KARIKALAN MADE A QUICK DECISION.
HE KNOWS HE'S BEING FOLLOWED. I'LL RIDE OUT THROUGH THE TREES AND SURPRISE HIM FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
BELIEVING THAT KARIKALAN HAD GIVEN UP THE CHASE, VIRA PANDYA SLACKENED HIS PACE. A LITTLE LATER—
AH! I'LL DISMOUNT AND REST HERE FOR A WHILE.
HE TETHERED HIS HORSE...
...ENTERED THE DILAPIDATED HOUSE AND LAY DOWN TO REST.

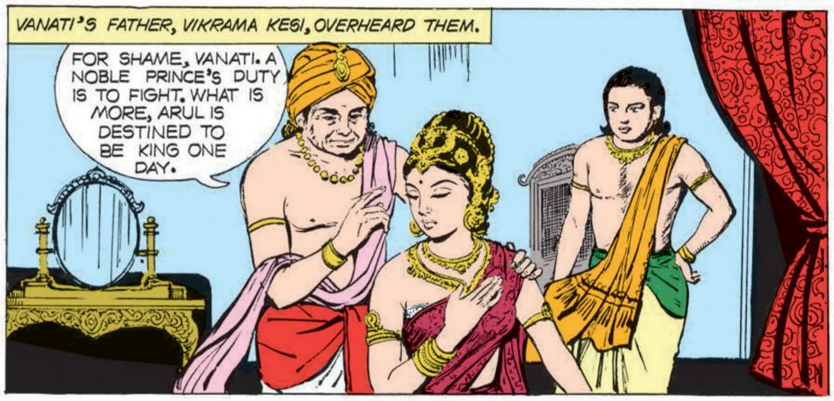

A FEW MINUTES LATER, KARIKALAN RODE UP AND DISMOUNTED.
HIS HORSE! THE WEAKLING IS INSIDE.
DRAWING HIS SWORD...
...KARIKALAN CHARGED INTO THE HOUSE.
POOH! THE GREAT VIRA PANDYA EXHAUSTED SO SOON! GET UP, YOU SCOUNDREL!
SPARE ME, KARIKALAN.
BUT KARIKALAN RAISED HIS SWORD AND—
A-AH!
BY THEN ARUL REACHED THE SCENE.
ALAS! I AM TOO LATE. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!

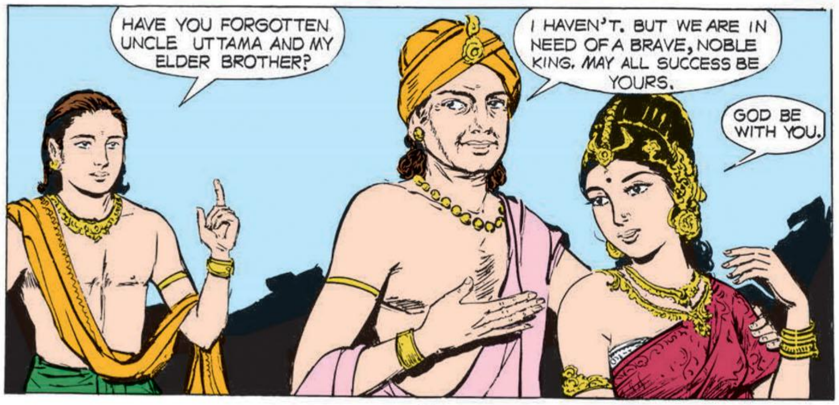

LEAVE ME ALONE. I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.
IT WAS NEITHER CHIVALROUS NOR WISE OF YOU.
ARUL WAS RIGHT. AT CAMP, NEXT DAY—
BEYOND DOUBT HE IS A GOOD WARRIOR. BUT THAT WAS A CRUEL THING TO DO—THE KING WAS RETREATING.
ARUL WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE THIS!
KARIKALAN HAD TO FACE THE HOSTILITY AND CONTEMPT OF HIS OWN SOLDIERS.
WHEN THE TRIUMPHANT BROTHERS RETURNED HOME, ARUL DISCUSSED THE VICTORY AND KARIKALAN'S DEED WITH KUNDAVAI AND VANDIYA DEVAN.
I WISH HE HAD SHOWN MORE RESTRAINT. HE HAS ANTAGONISED THE COMMANDER OF OUR ARMY.
WHY?
DON'T YOU KNOW? THE COMMANDER'S WIFE, NANDINI, HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP BY VIRA PANDYA.
NOW EVEN KARIKALAN'S FRIENDS ARE DESERTING HIM ONE BY ONE.
NOT ME.
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL TO US.
IF ONLY YOU KNEW WHY! DEAR, DEAR KUNDAVAI!

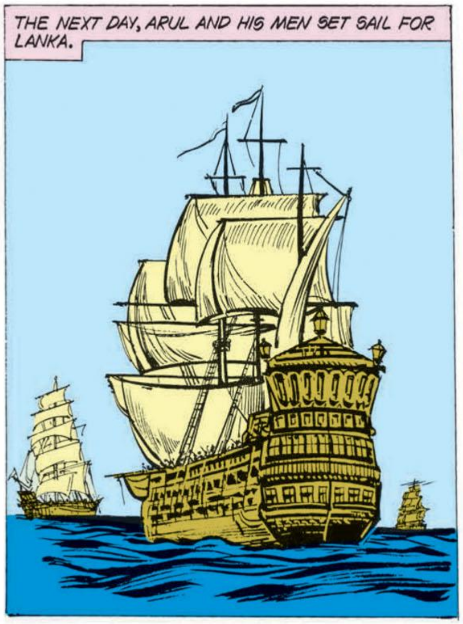

JUST THEN, A COURT ATTENDANT ENTERED THE ROOM.
ARUL, THE KING WISHES TO SEE YOU.
PERHAPS HE INTENDS SENDING YOU TO LANKA.* SO I HEARD.
ARUL WAS DELIGHTED.
THEN I MUST GO TO HIM AT ONCE.
AS ARUL STOOD EXPECTANTLY BEFORE HIS FATHER —
ARUL, MY SON, YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN GREATER RESTRAINT THAN YOUR BROTHER. SO I HAVE DECIDED TO SEND YOU ON AN ASSIGNMENT.
WHERE TO, FATHER?
TO LANKA. KING MAHENDRA HAS RISEN IN REBELLION. GO AND QUELL HIM.
I CANNOT WAIT TO LEAVE, FATHER. I AM EAGER FOR VICTORY!

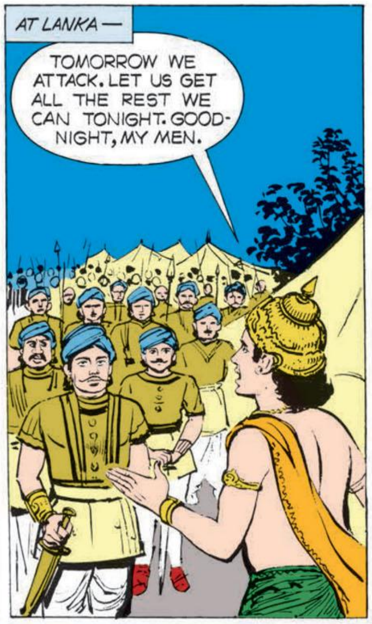
* THE ISLAND OF CEYLON NOW KNOWN AS SRI LANKA.

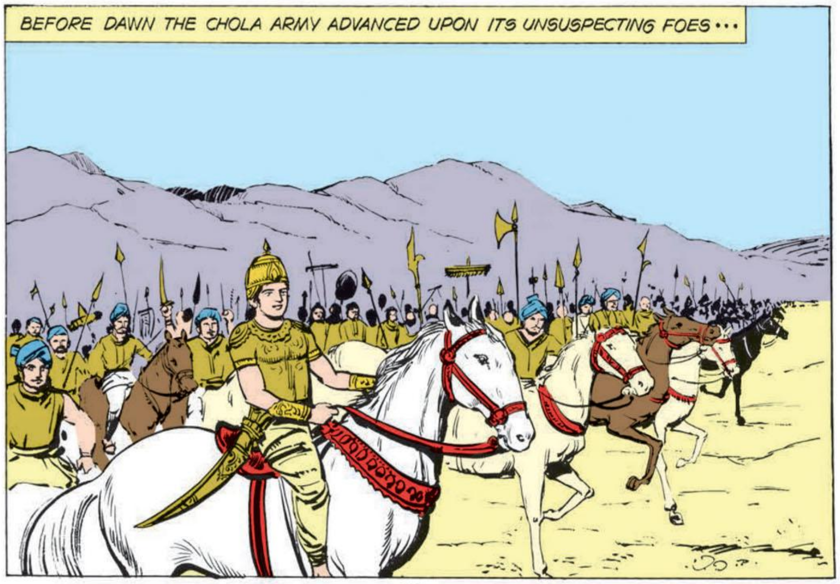

BEFORE DEPARTING, ARUL WENT TO TAKE LEAVE OF HIS BELOVED, THE PRINCESS VANATI.
DON'T WEEP, VANATI.
MUST YOU GO SO SOON?

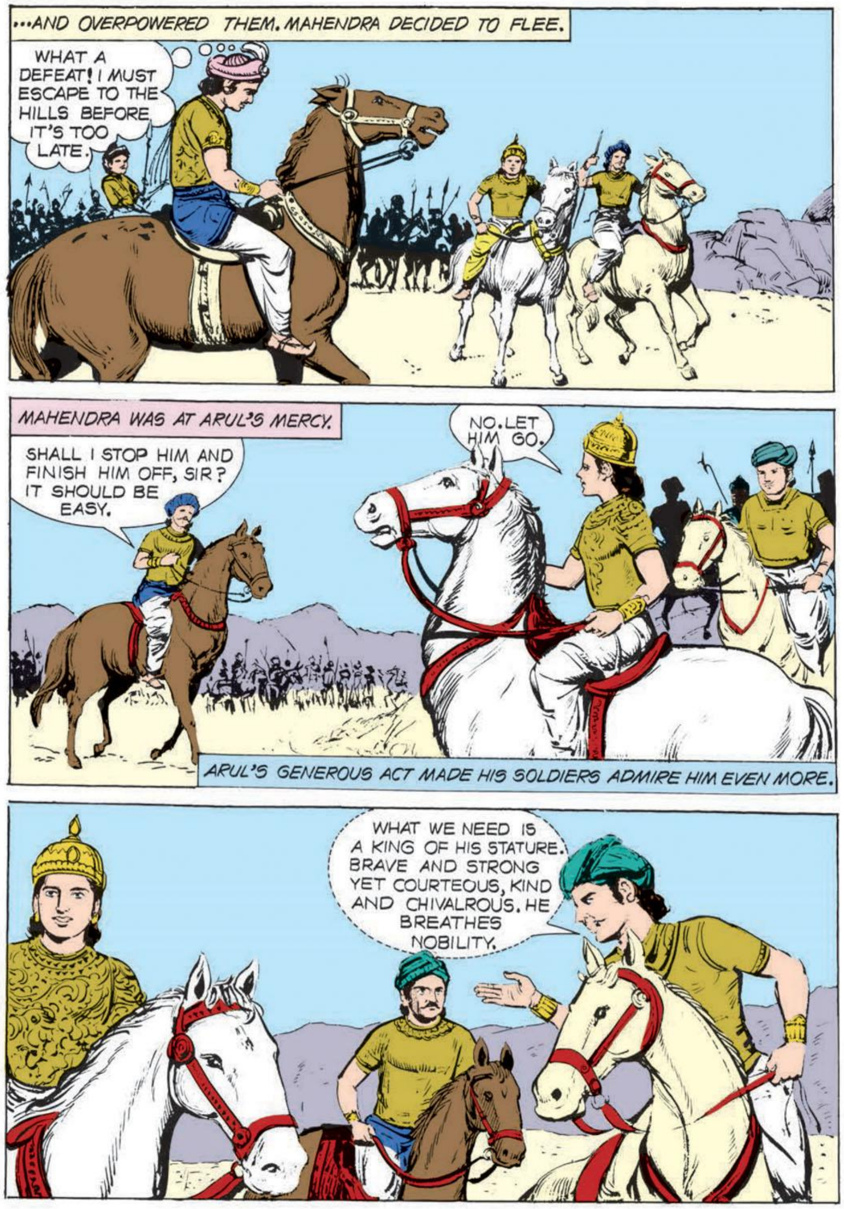

VANATI'S FATHER, VIKRAMA KESI, OVERHEARD THEM.
FOR SHAME, VANATI. A NOBLE PRINCE'S DUTY IS TO FIGHT. WHAT IS MORE, ARUL IS DESTINED TO BE KING ONE DAY.

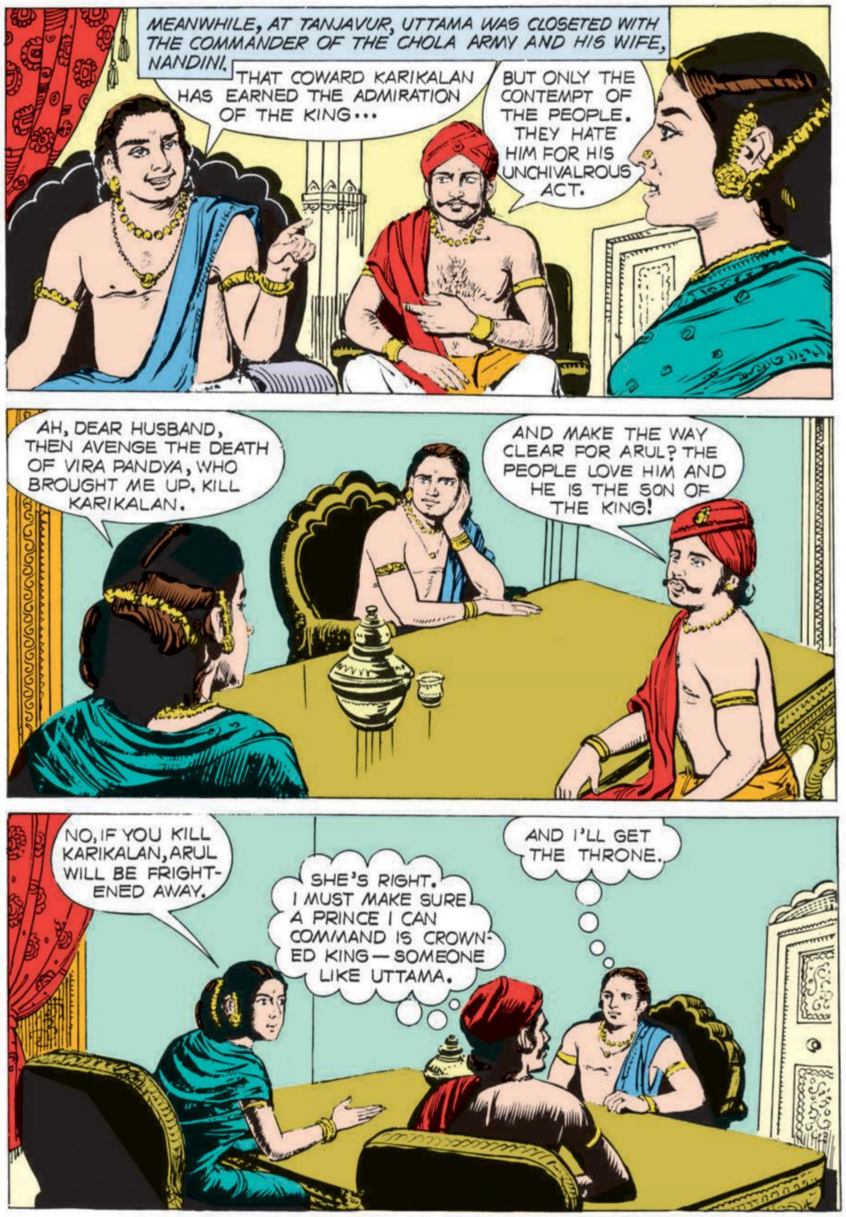

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN UNCLE UTTAMA AND MY ELDER BROTHER?
I HAVEN'T. BUT WE ARE IN NEED OF A BRAVE, NOBLE KING. MAY ALL SUCCESS BE YOURS.
GOD BE WITH YOU.

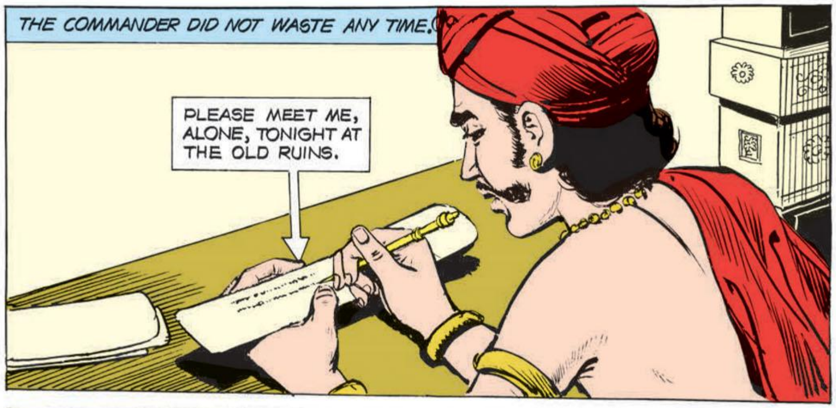

THE NEXT DAY, ARUL AND HIS MEN SET SAIL FOR LANKA.

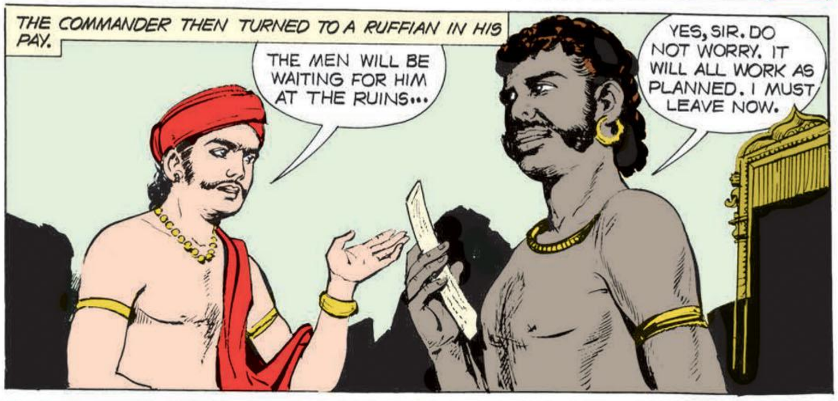

AT LANKA —
TOMORROW WE ATTACK. LET US GET ALL THE REST WE CAN TONIGHT. GOOD-NIGHT, MY MEN.

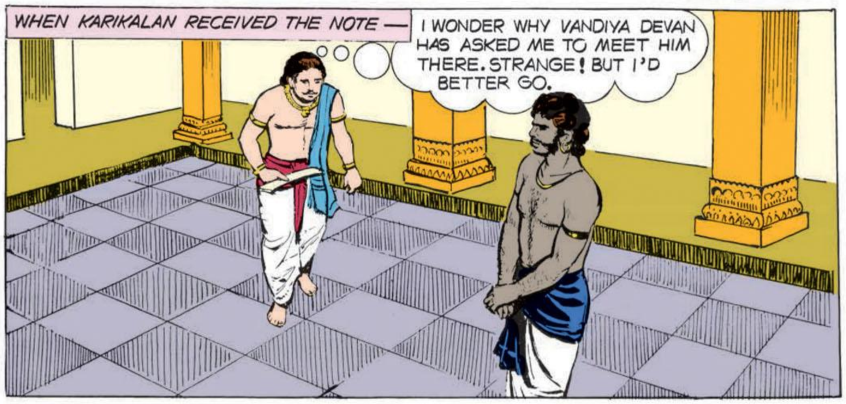

BEFORE DAWN THE CHOLA ARMY ADVANCED UPON ITS UNSUSPECTING FOES • • •

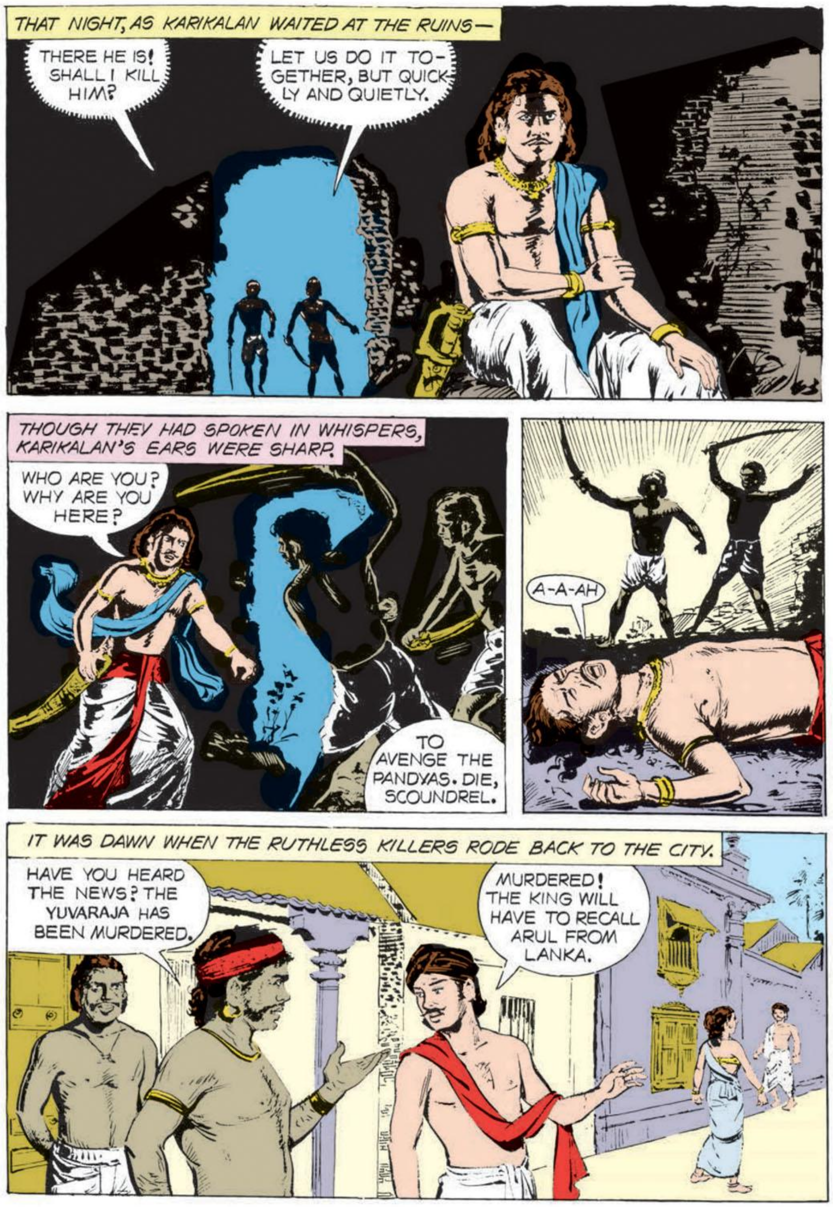

...AND OVERPOWERED THEM. MAHENDRA DECIDED TO FLEE.
WHAT A DEFEAT! I MUST ESCAPE TO THE HILLS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
MAHENDRA WAS AT ARUL'S MERCY.
SHALL I STOP HIM AND FINISH HIM OFF, SIR? IT SHOULD BE EASY.
NO. LET HIM GO.
ARUL'S GENEROUS ACT MADE HIS SOLDIERS ADMIRE HIM EVEN MORE.
WHAT WE NEED IS A KING OF HIS STATURE. BRAVE AND STRONG YET COURTEOUS, KIND AND CHIVALROUS. HE BREATHES NOBILITY.

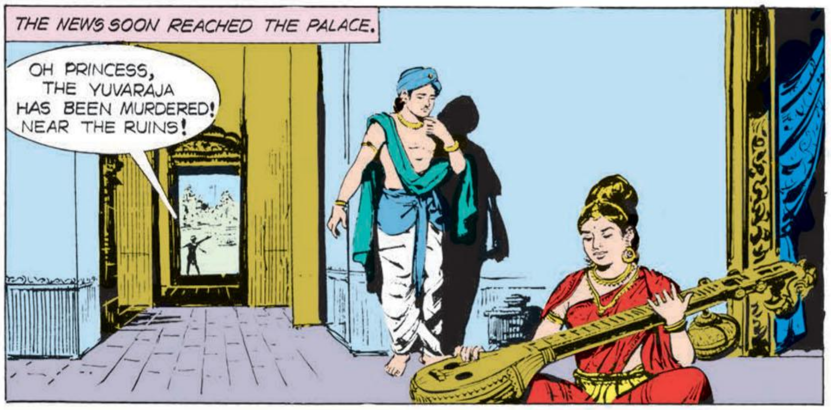

MEANWHILE, AT TANJAVUR, UTTAMA WAS CLOSETED WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE CHOLA ARMY AND HIS WIFE, NANDINI.
THAT COWARD KARIKALAN HAS EARNED THE ADMIRATION OF THE KING...
BUT ONLY THE CONTEMPT OF THE PEOPLE. THEY HATE HIM FOR HIS UNCHIVALROUS ACT.
AH, DEAR HUSBAND, THEN AVENGE THE DEATH OF VIRA PANDYA, WHO BROUGHT ME UP. KILL KARIKALAN.
AND MAKE THE WAY CLEAR FOR ARUL? THE PEOPLE LOVE HIM AND HE IS THE SON OF THE KING!
NO, IF YOU KILL KARIKALAN, ARUL WILL BE FRIGHTENED AWAY.
SHE'S RIGHT. I MUST MAKE SURE A PRINCE I CAN COMMAND IS CROWNED KING — SOMEONE LIKE UTTAMA.
AND I'LL GET THE THRONE.

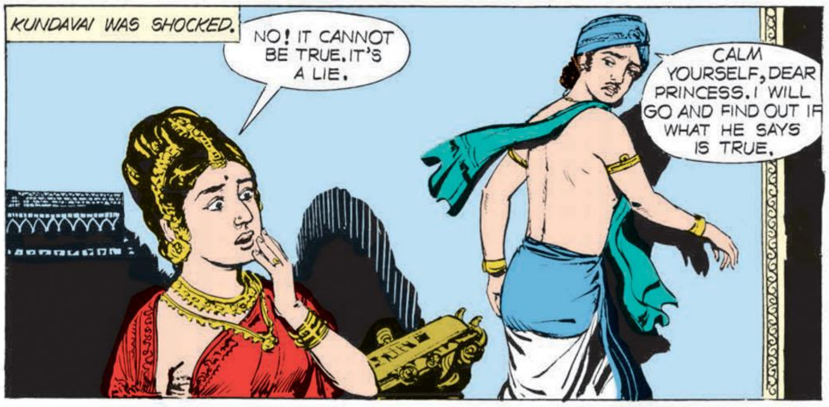

THE COMMANDER DID NOT WASTE ANY TIME.
PLEASE MEET ME, ALONE, TONIGHT AT THE OLD RUINS.

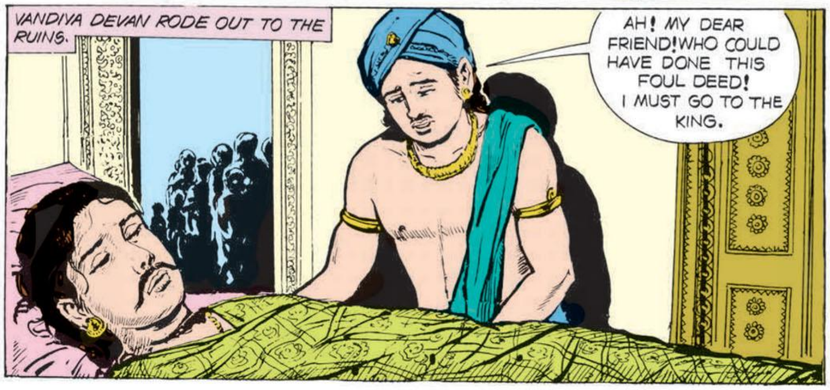

THE COMMANDER THEN TURNED TO A RUFFIAN IN HIS PAY.
THE MEN WILL BE WAITING FOR HIM AT THE RUINS...
YES, SIR. DO NOT WORRY. IT WILL ALL WORK AS PLANNED. I MUST LEAVE NOW.

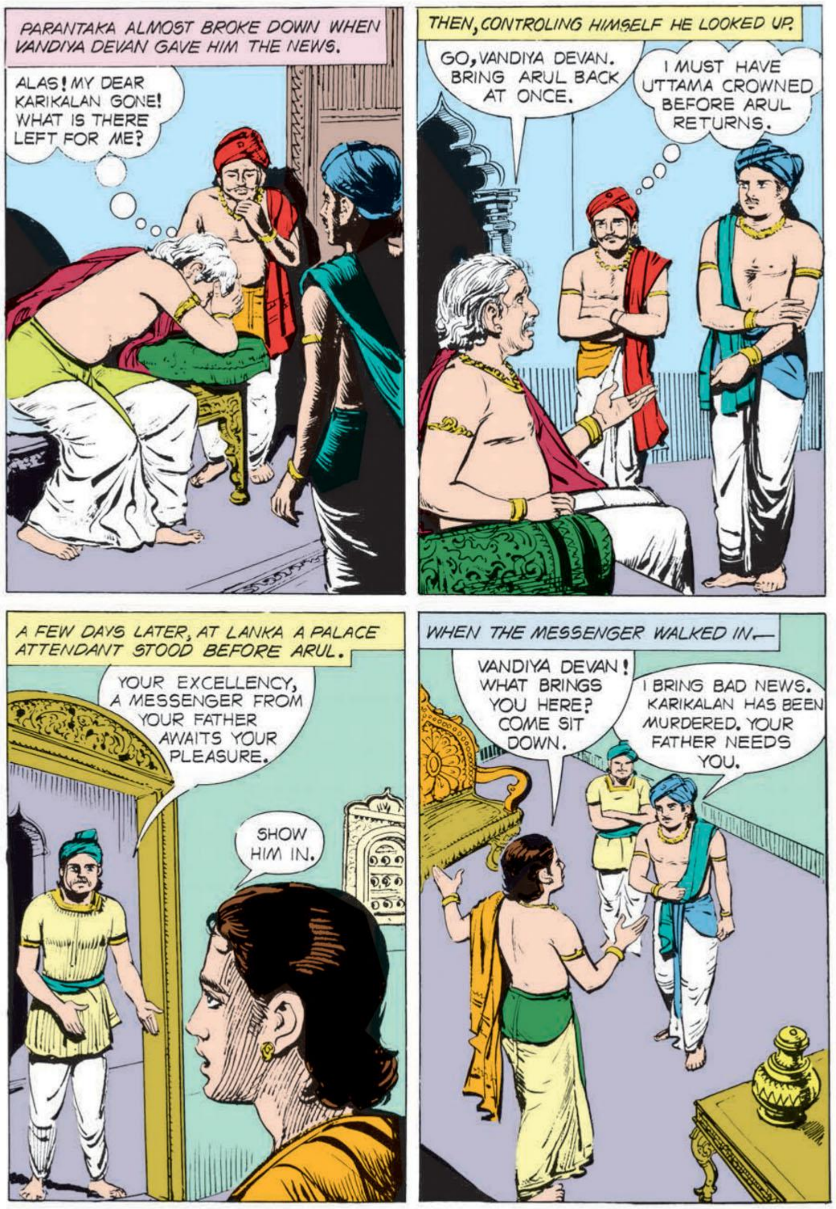

WHEN KARIKALAN RECEIVED THE NOTE —
I WONDER WHY VANDIYA DEVAN HAS ASKED ME TO MEET HIM THERE. STRANGE! BUT I'D BETTER GO.

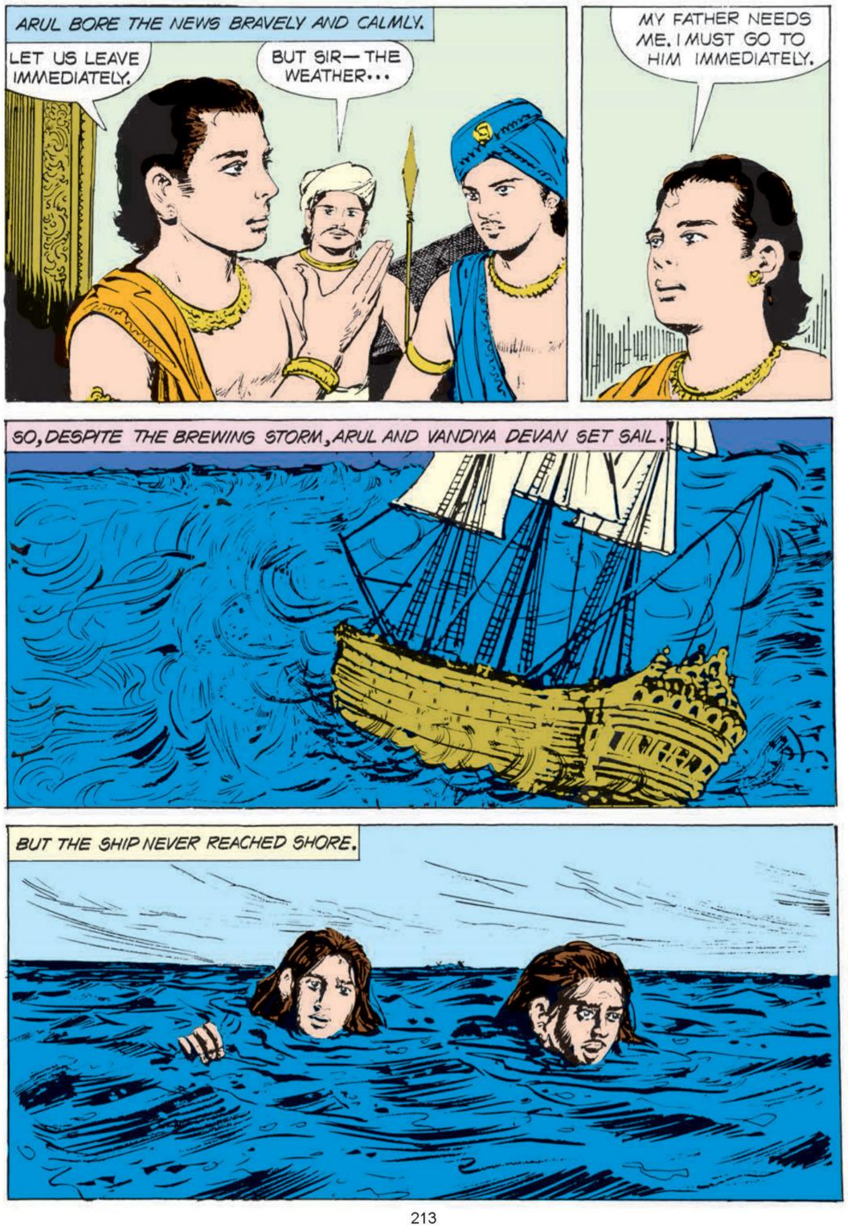

THAT NIGHT, AS KARIKALAN WAITED AT THE RUINS—
THERE HE IS! SHALL I KILL HIM?
LET US DO IT TOGETHER, BUT QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.
THOUGH THEY HAD SPOKEN IN WHISPERS, KARIKALAN'S EARS WERE SHARP.
WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
TO AVENGE THE PANDYAS. DIE, SCOUNDREL.
A-A-AH
IT WAS DAWN WHEN THE RUTHLESS KILLERS RODE BACK TO THE CITY.
HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS? THE YUVARAJA HAS BEEN MURDERED.
MURDERED! THE KING WILL HAVE TO RECALL ARUL FROM LANKA.

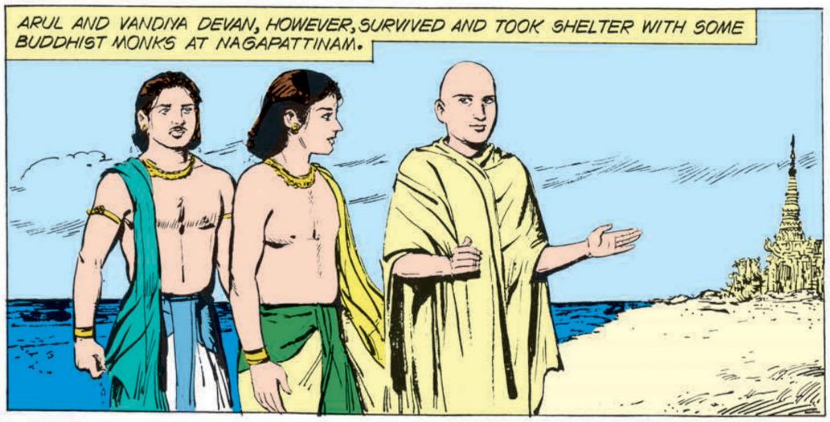

THE NEWS SOON REACHED THE PALACE.
OH PRINCESS, THE YUVARAJA HAS BEEN MURDERED! NEAR THE RUINS!

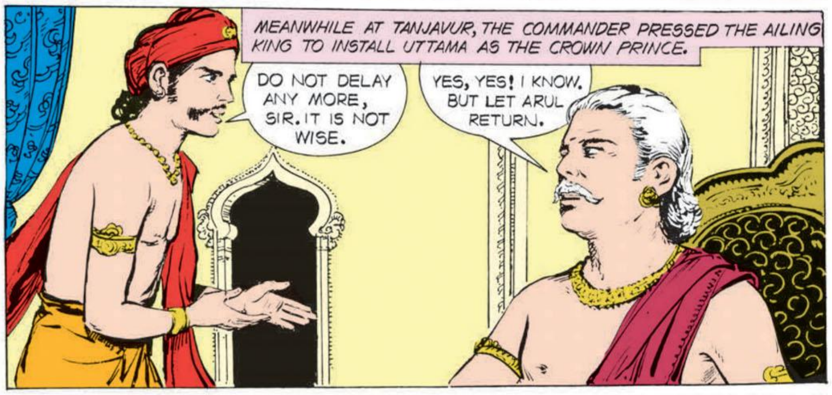

KUNDAVAI WAS SHOCKED.
NO! IT CANNOT BE TRUE. IT'S A LIE.
CALM YOURSELF, DEAR PRINCESS. I WILL GO AND FIND OUT IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE.

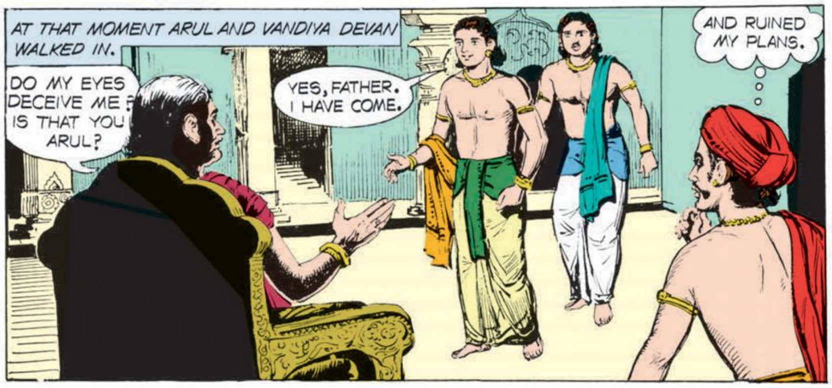

VANDIYA DEVAN RODE OUT TO THE RUINS.
AH! MY DEAR FRIEND! WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS FOUL DEED! I MUST GO TO THE KING.

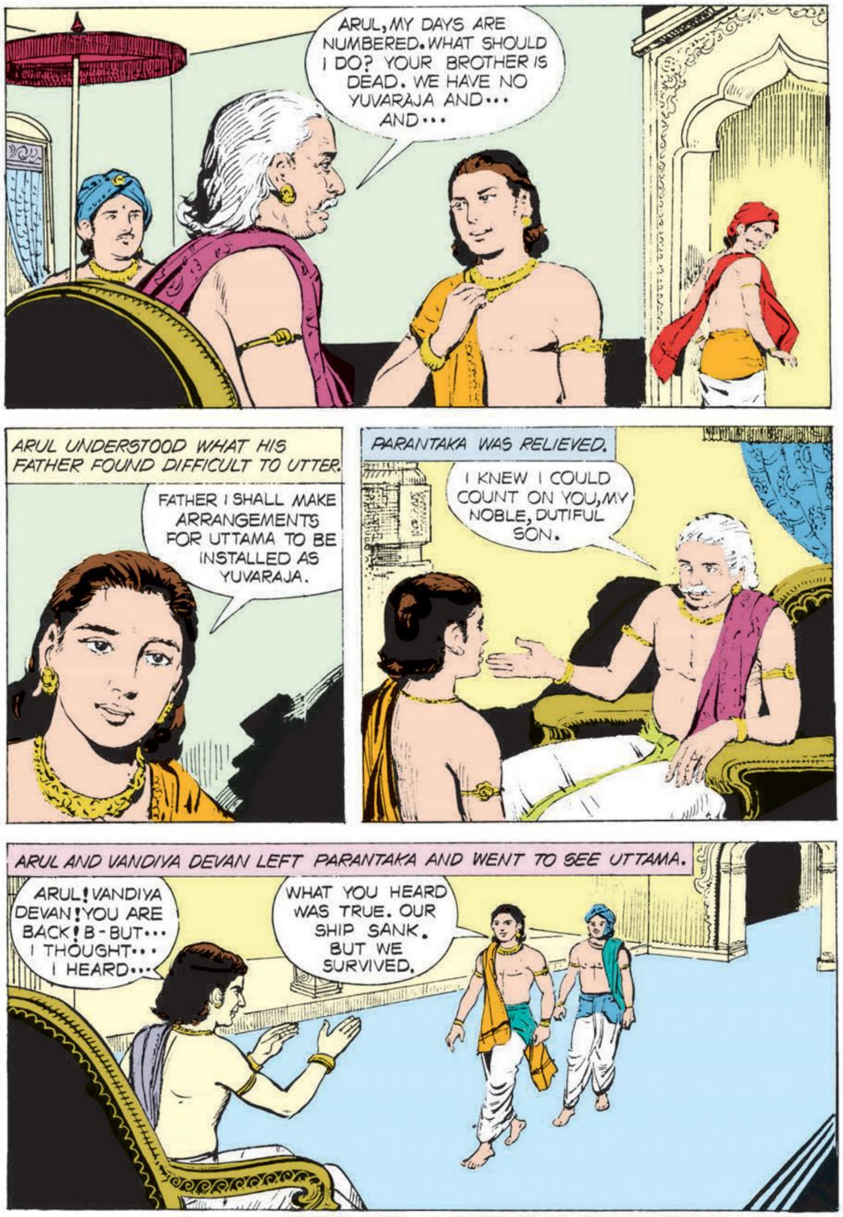

PARANTAKA ALMOST BROKE DOWN WHEN VANDIYA DEVAN GAVE HIM THE NEWS.
ALAS! MY DEAR KARIKALAN GONE! WHAT IS THERE LEFT FOR ME?
THEN, CONTROLING HIMSELF HE LOOKED UP.
GO, VANDIYA DEVAN. BRING ARUL BACK AT ONCE.
I MUST HAVE UTTAMA CROWNED BEFORE ARUL RETURNS.
A FEW DAYS LATER, AT LANKA A PALACE ATTENDANT STOOD BEFORE ARUL.
YOUR EXCELLENCY, A MESSENGER FROM YOUR FATHER AWAITS YOUR PLEASURE.
SHOW HIM IN.
WHEN THE MESSENGER WALKED IN—
VANDIYA DEVAN! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? COME SIT DOWN.
I BRING BAD NEWS. KARIKALAN HAS BEEN MURDERED. YOUR FATHER NEEDS YOU.

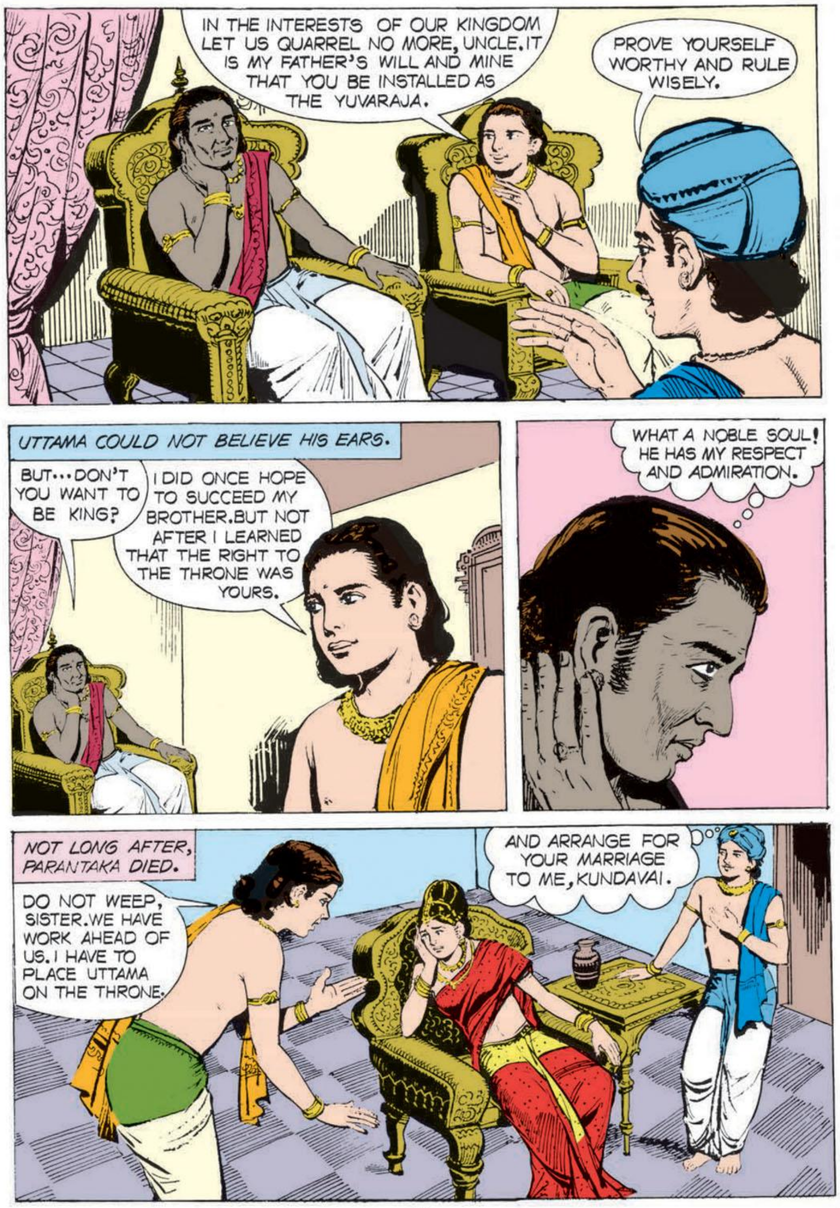

ARUL BORE THE NEWS BRAVELY AND CALMLY.
LET US LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
BUT SIR— THE WEATHER...
MY FATHER NEEDS ME. I MUST GO TO HIM IMMEDIATELY.
SO, DESPITE THE BREWING STORM, ARUL AND VANDIYA DEVAN SET SAIL.
BUT THE SHIP NEVER REACHED SHORE.

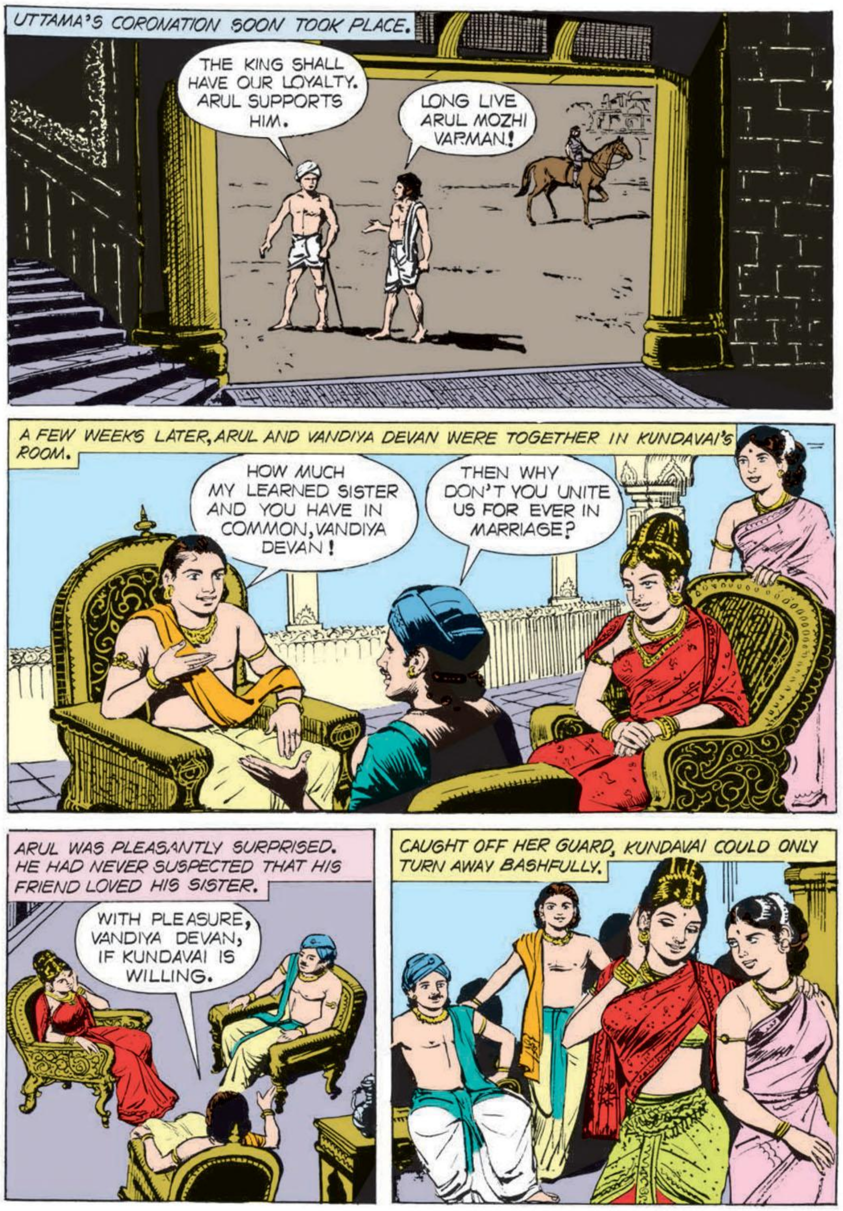

ARUL AND VANDIYA DEVAN, HOWEVER, SURVIVED AND TOOK SHELTER WITH SOME BUDDHIST MONKS AT NAGAPATTINAM.

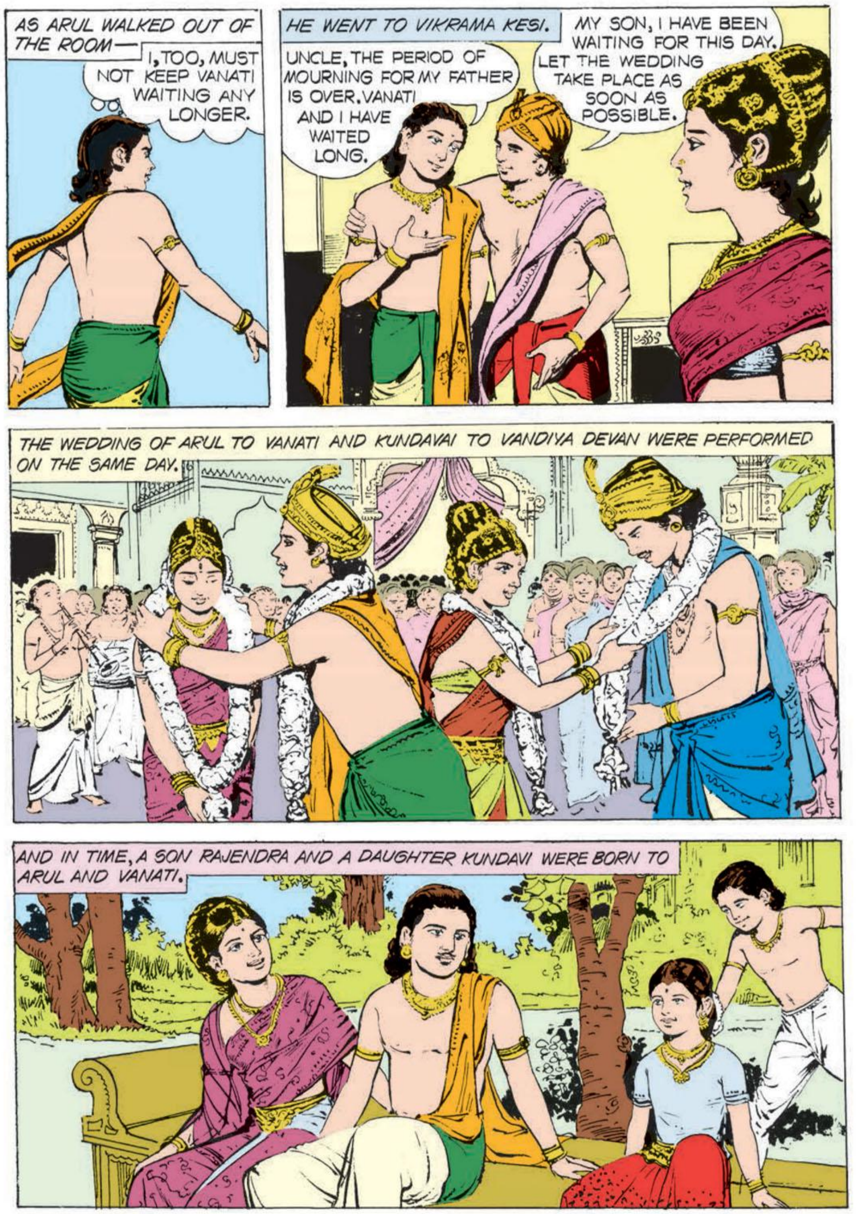

MEANWHILE AT TANJAVUR, THE COMMANDER PRESSED THE AILING KING TO INSTALL UTTAMA AS THE CROWN PRINCE.
DO NOT DELAY ANY MORE, SIR. IT IS NOT WISE.
YES, YES! I KNOW. BUT LET ARUL RETURN.

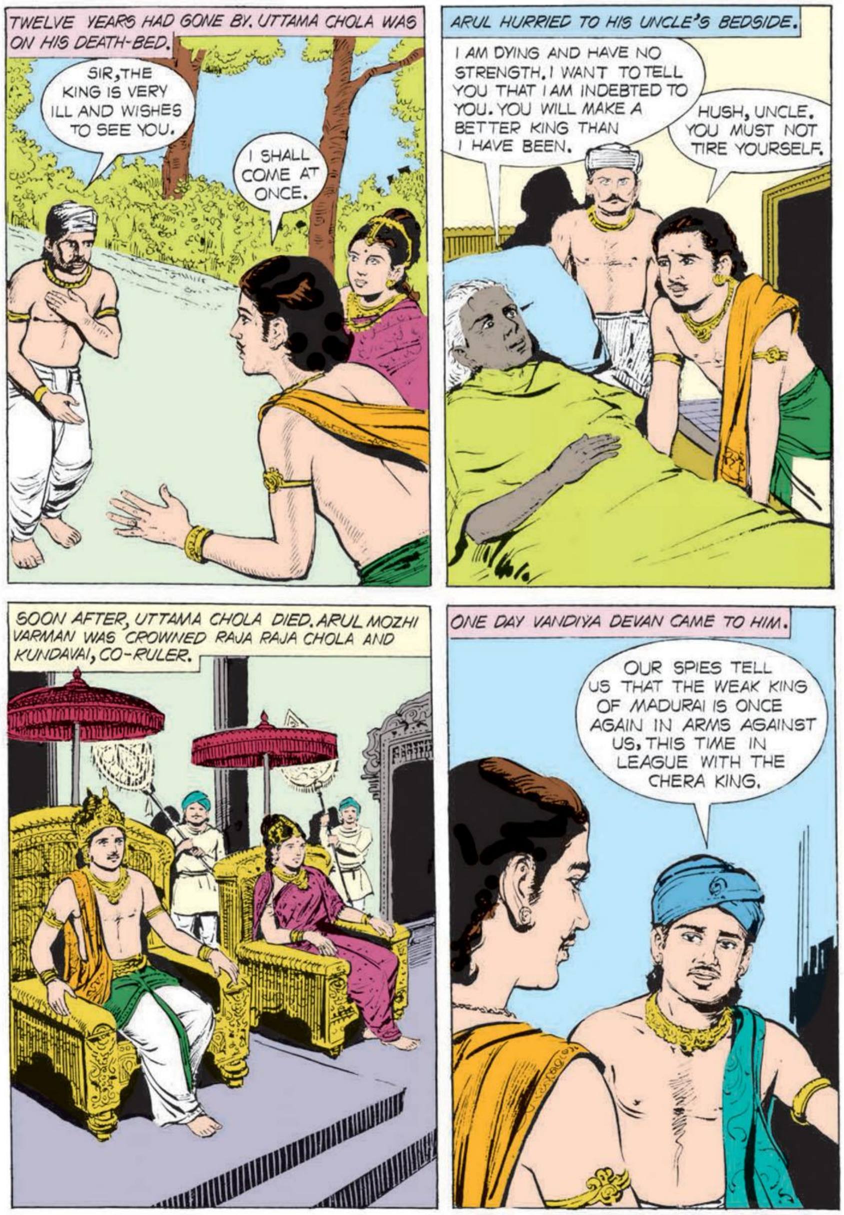

AT THAT MOMENT ARUL AND VANDIYA DEVAN WALKED IN.
DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? IS THAT YOU ARUL?
YES, FATHER. I HAVE COME.
AND RUINED MY PLANS.

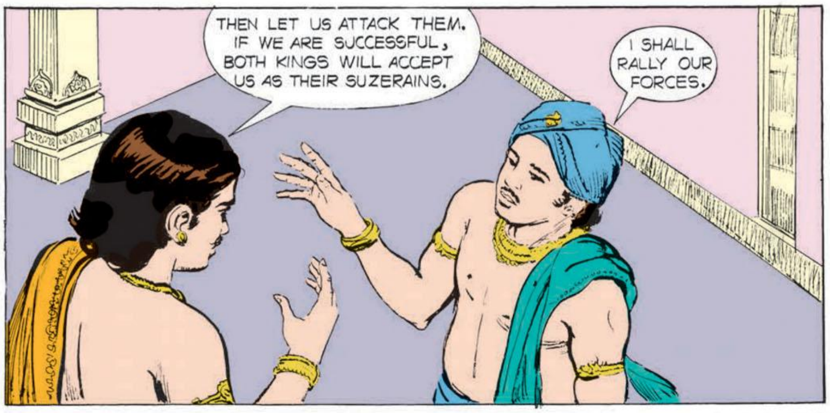

ARUL, MY DAYS ARE NUMBERED. WHAT SHOULD I DO? YOUR BROTHER IS DEAD. WE HAVE NO YUVARAJA AND… AND…
ARUL UNDERSTOOD WHAT HIS FATHER FOUND DIFFICULT TO UTTER.
FATHER I SHALL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR UTTAMA TO BE INSTALLED AS YUVARAJA.
PARANTAKA WAS RELIEVED.
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU, MY NOBLE, DUTIFUL SON.
ARUL AND VANDIYA DEVAN LEFT PARANTAKA AND WENT TO SEE UTTAMA.
ARUL! VANDIYA DEVAN! YOU ARE BACK! B-BUT… I THOUGHT… I HEARD…
WHAT YOU HEARD WAS TRUE. OUR SHIP SANK. BUT WE SURVIVED.

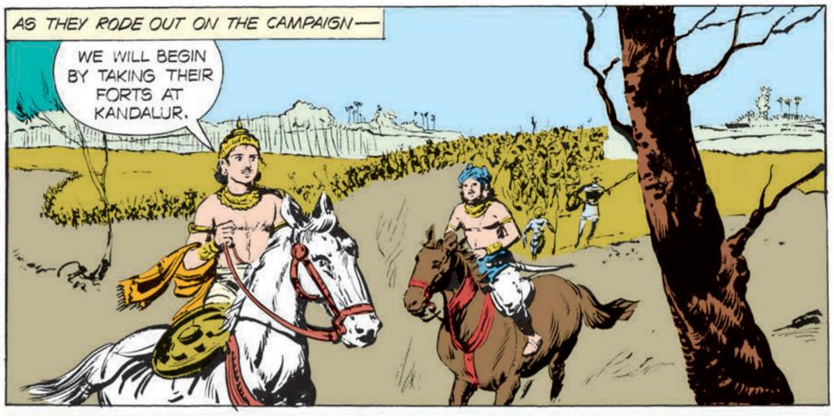

IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR KINGDOM LET US QUARREL NO MORE, UNCLE. IT IS MY FATHER'S WILL AND MINE THAT YOU BE INSTALLED AS THE YUVARAJA.
PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY AND RULE WISELY.
UTTAMA COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EARS.
BUT... DON'T YOU WANT TO BE KING?
I DID ONCE HOPE TO SUCCEED MY BROTHER. BUT NOT AFTER I LEARNED THAT THE RIGHT TO THE THRONE WAS YOURS.
WHAT A NOBLE SOUL! HE HAS MY RESPECT AND ADMIRATION.
NOT LONG AFTER, PARANTAKA DIED.
DO NOT WEEP, SISTER. WE HAVE WORK AHEAD OF US. I HAVE TO PLACE UTTAMA ON THE THRONE.
AND ARRANGE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE TO ME, KUNDAVAI.

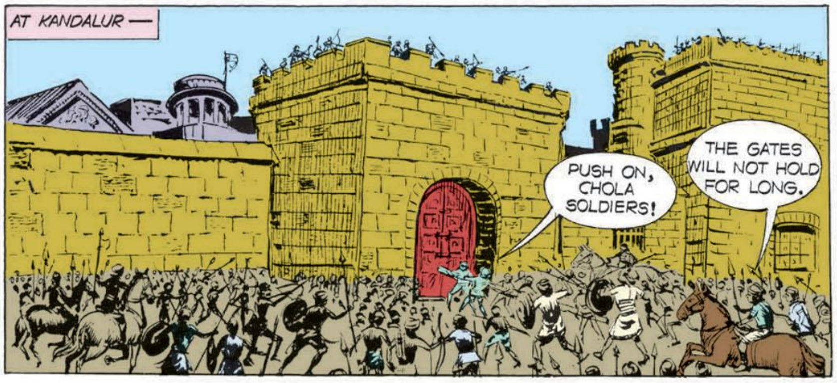

UTTAMA'S CORONATION SOON TOOK PLACE.
THE KING SHALL HAVE OUR LOYALTY. ARUL SUPPORTS HIM.
LONG LIVE ARUL MOZHI VARMAN!
A FEW WEEKS LATER, ARUL AND VANDIYA DEVAN WERE TOGETHER IN KUNDAVAI'S ROOM.
HOW MUCH MY LEARNED SISTER AND YOU HAVE IN COMMON, VANDIYA DEVAN!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU UNITE US FOR EVER IN MARRIAGE?
ARUL WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED. HE HAD NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HIS FRIEND LOVED HIS SISTER.
WITH PLEASURE, VANDIYA DEVAN, IF KUNDAVAI IS WILLING.
CAUGHT OFF HER GUARD, KUNDAVAI COULD ONLY TURN AWAY BASHFULLY.

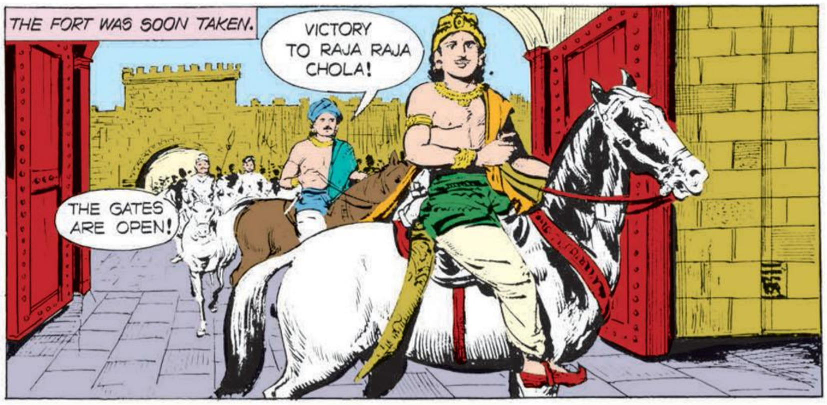

AS ARUL WALKED OUT OF THE ROOM—
I, TOO, MUST NOT KEEP VANATI WAITING ANY LONGER.
HE WENT TO VIKRAMA KESI.
UNCLE, THE PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR MY FATHER IS OVER. VANATI AND I HAVE WAITED LONG.
MY SON, I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY. LET THE WEDDING TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THE WEDDING OF ARUL TO VANATI AND KUNDAVAI TO VANDIYA DEVAN WERE PERFORMED ON THE SAME DAY.
AND IN TIME, A SON RAJENDRA AND A DAUGHTER KUNDAVI WERE BORN TO ARUL AND VANATI.

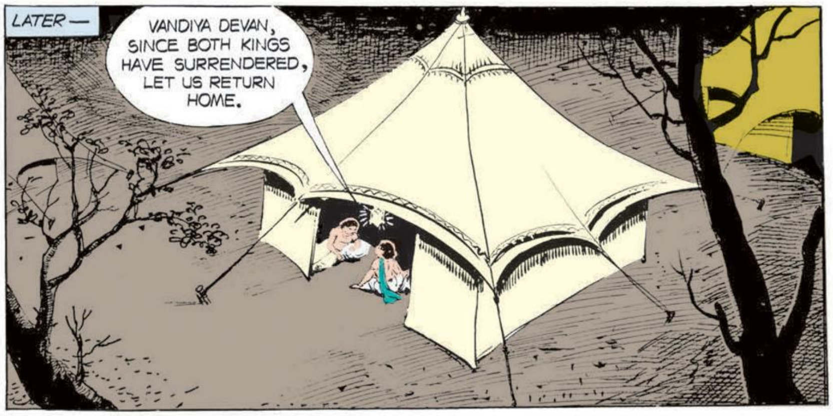

TWELVE YEARS HAD GONE BY. UTTAMA CHOLA WAS ON HIS DEATH-BED.
SIR, THE KING IS VERY ILL AND WISHES TO SEE YOU.
I SHALL COME AT ONCE.
ARUL HURRIED TO HIS UNCLE'S BEDSIDE.
I AM DYING AND HAVE NO STRENGTH. I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I AM INDEBTED TO YOU. YOU WILL MAKE A BETTER KING THAN I HAVE BEEN.
HUSH, UNCLE. YOU MUST NOT TIRE YOURSELF.
SOON AFTER, UTTAMA CHOLA DIED. ARUL MOZHI VARMAN WAS CROWNED RAJA RAJA CHOLA AND KUNDAVAI, CO-RULER.
ONE DAY VANDIYA DEVAN CAME TO HIM.
OUR SPIES TELL US THAT THE WEAK KING OF MADURAI IS ONCE AGAIN IN ARMS AGAINST US, THIS TIME IN LEAGUE WITH THE CHERA KING.

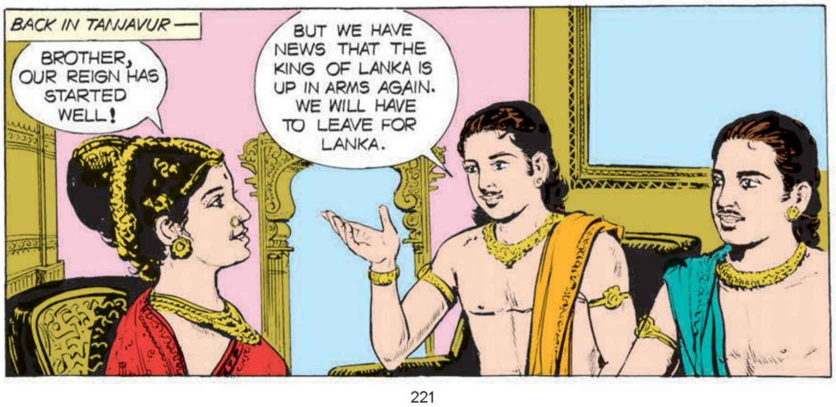

THEN LET US ATTACK THEM. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, BOTH KINGS WILL ACCEPT US AS THEIR SUZERAINS.
I SHALL RALLY OUR FORCES.

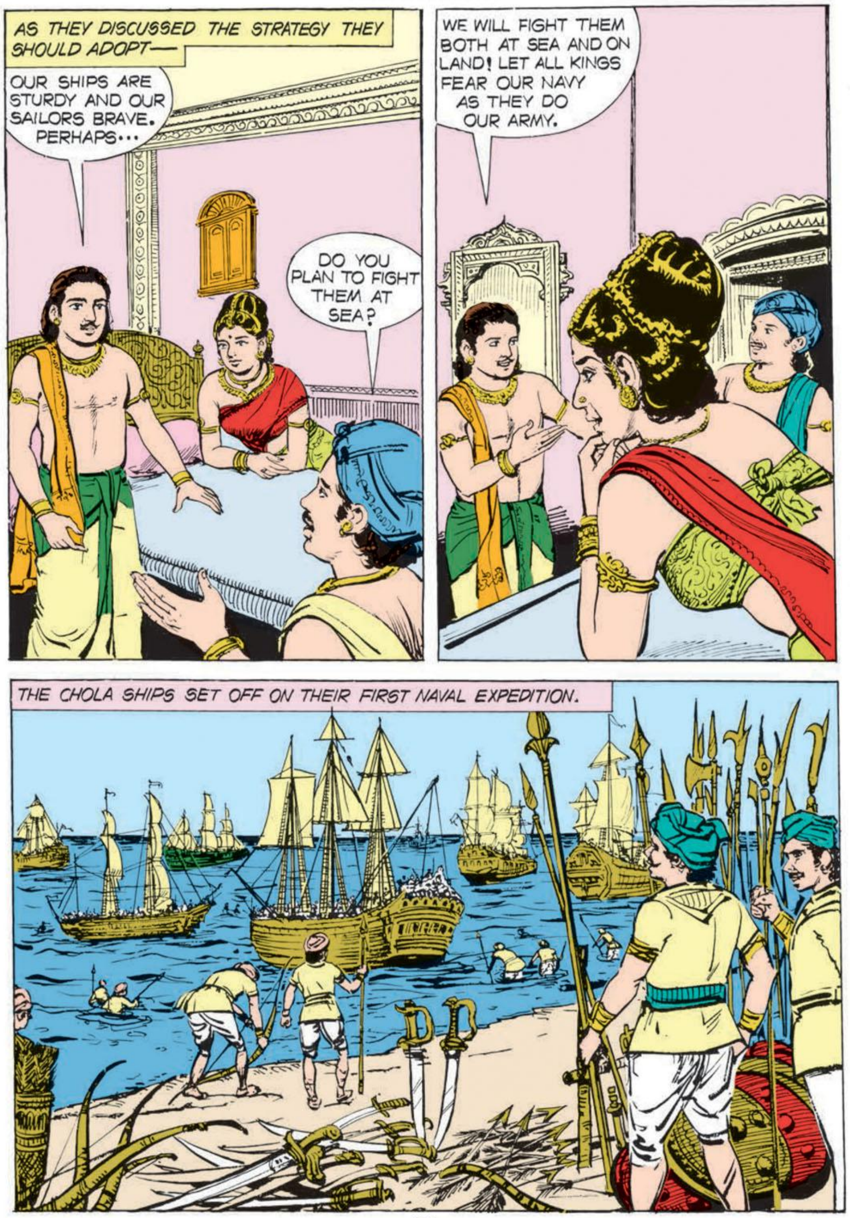

AS THEY RODE OUT ON THE CAMPAIGN—
WE WILL BEGIN BY TAKING THEIR FORTS AT KANDALUR.

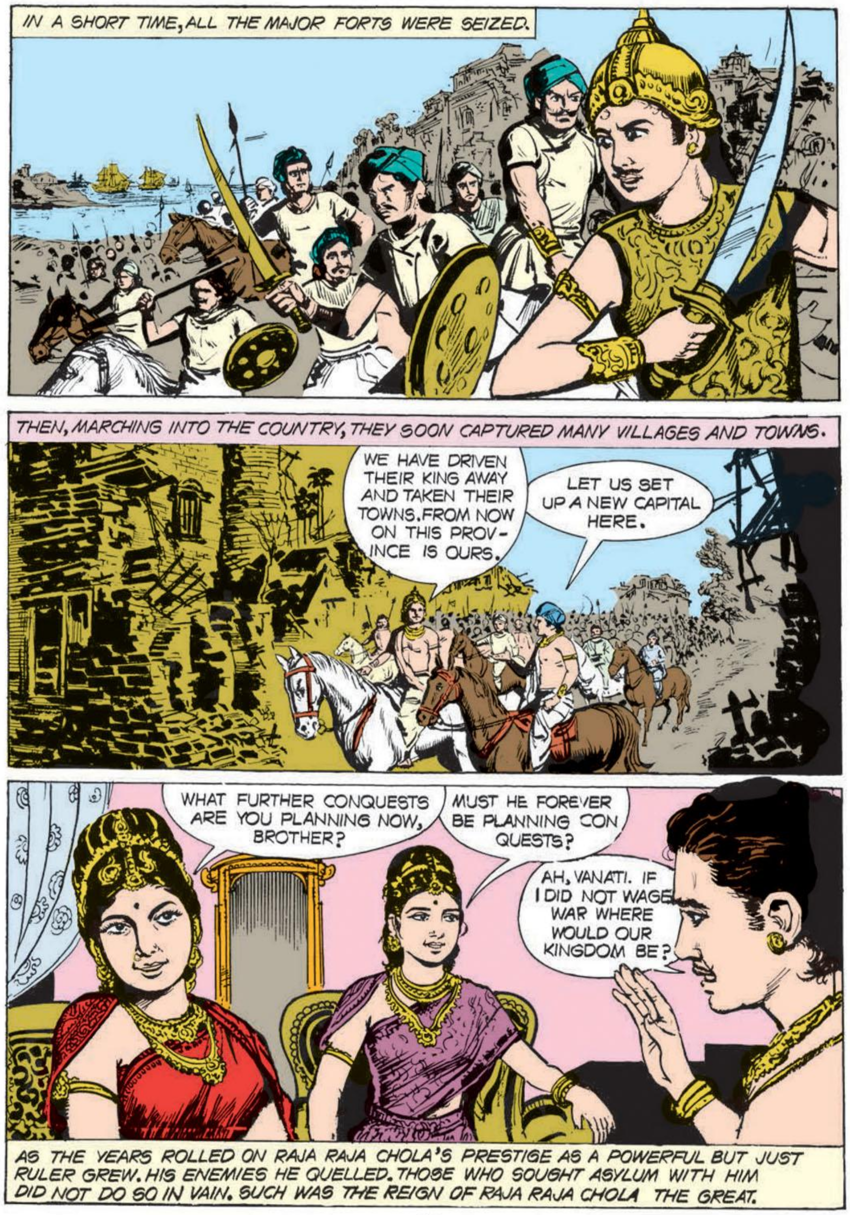

AT KANDALUR—
PUSH ON, CHOLA SOLDIERS!
THE GATES WILL NOT HOLD FOR LONG.

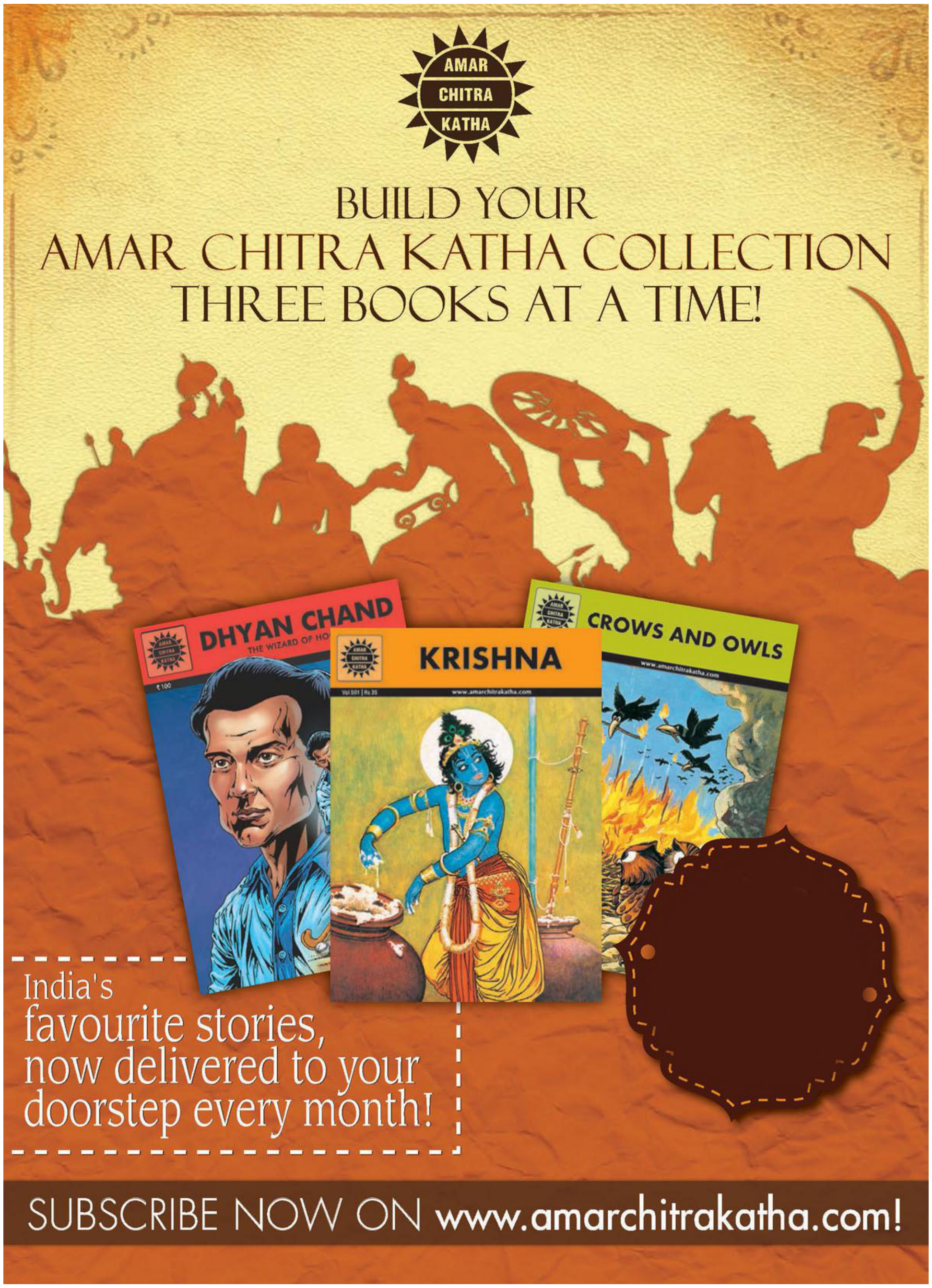

THE FORT WAS SOON TAKEN.
VICTORY TO RAJA RAJA CHOLA!
THE GATES ARE OPEN!


LATER—
VANDIYA DEVAN, SINCE BOTH KINGS HAVE SURRENDERED, LET US RETURN HOME.


BACK IN TANJAVUR—
BROTHER, OUR REIGN HAS STARTED WELL!
BUT WE HAVE NEWS THAT THE KING OF LANKA IS UP IN ARMS AGAIN. WE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE FOR LANKA.


AS THEY DISCUSSED THE STRATEGY THEY SHOULD ADOPT—
OUR SHIPS ARE STURDY AND OUR SAILORS BRAVE. PERHAPS...
DO YOU PLAN TO FIGHT THEM AT SEA?
WE WILL FIGHT THEM BOTH AT SEA AND ON LAND! LET ALL KINGS FEAR OUR NAVY AS THEY DO OUR ARMY.
THE CHOLA SHIPS SET OFF ON THEIR FIRST NAVAL EXPEDITION.


IN A SHORT TIME, ALL THE MAJOR FORTS WERE SEIZED.
THEN, MARCHING INTO THE COUNTRY, THEY SOON CAPTURED MANY VILLAGES AND TOWNS.
WE HAVE DRIVEN THEIR KING AWAY AND TAKEN THEIR TOWNS. FROM NOW ON THIS PROVINCE IS OURS.
LET US SET UP A NEW CAPITAL HERE.
WHAT FURTHER CONQUESTS ARE YOU PLANNING NOW, BROTHER?
MUST HE FOREVER BE PLANNING CONQUESTS?
AH, VANATI. IF I DID NOT WAGE WAR WHERE WOULD OUR KINGDOM BE?
AS THE YEARS ROLLED ON RAJA RAJA CHOLA'S PRESTIGE AS A POWERFUL BUT JUST RULER GREW. HIS ENEMIES HE QUELLED. THOSE WHO SOUGHT ASYLUM WITH HIM DID NOT DO SO IN VAIN. SUCH WAS THE REIGN OF RAJA RAJA CHOLA THE GREAT.



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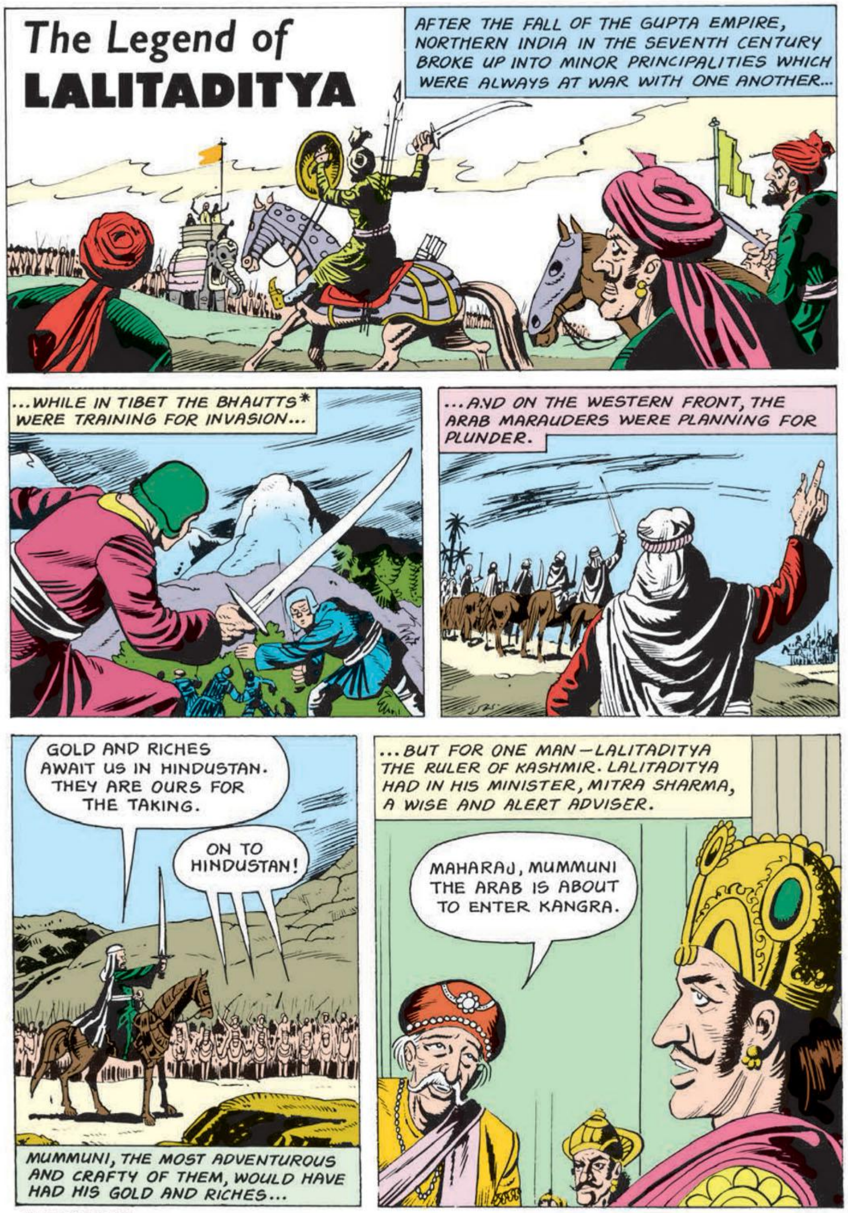
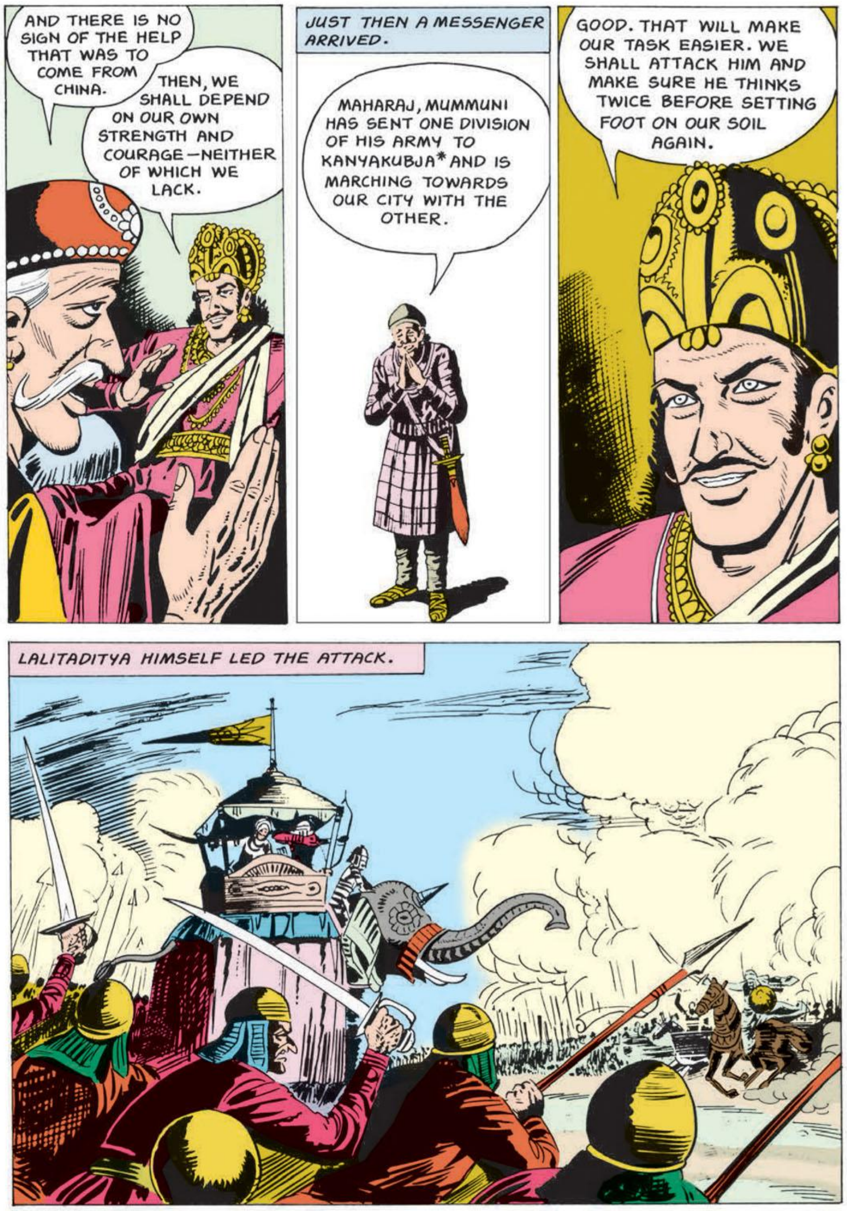
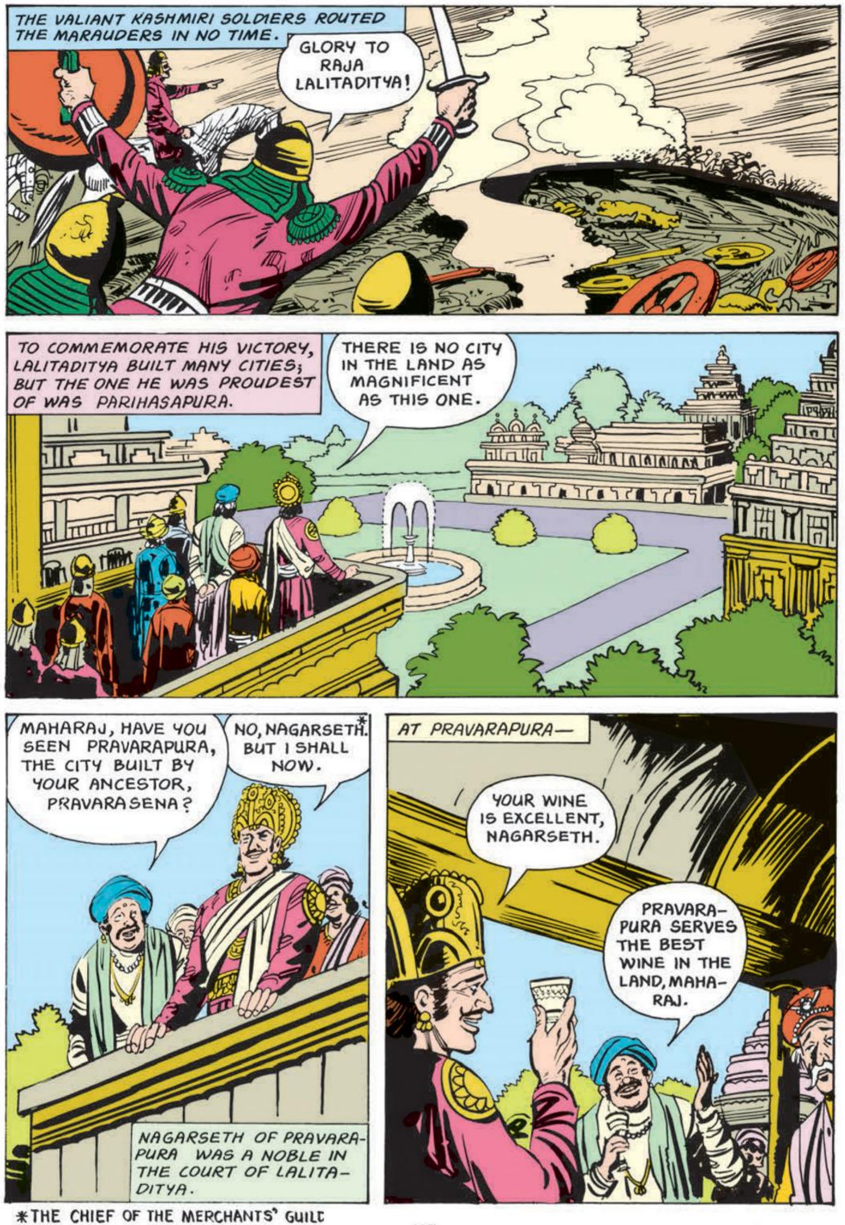
# The Legend of LALITADITYA


AFTER THE FALL OF THE GUPTA EMPIRE, NORTHERN INDIA IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY BROKE UP INTO MINOR PRINCIPALITIES WHICH WERE ALWAYS AT WAR WITH ONE ANOTHER...
...WHILE IN TIBET THE BHAUTTS* WERE TRAINING FOR INVASION...
...AND ON THE WESTERN FRONT, THE ARAB MARAUDERS WERE PLANNING FOR PLUNDER.
GOLD AND RICHES AWAIT US IN HINDUSTAN. THEY ARE OURS FOR THE TAKING.
ON TO HINDUSTAN!
MUMMUNI, THE MOST ADVENTUROUS AND CRAFTY OF THEM, WOULD HAVE HAD HIS GOLD AND RICHES...
...BUT FOR ONE MAN—LALITADITYA THE RULER OF KASHMIR. LALITADITYA HAD IN HIS MINISTER, MITRA SHARMA, A WISE AND ALERT ADVISER.
MAHARAJ, MUMMUNI THE ARAB IS ABOUT TO ENTER KANGRA.

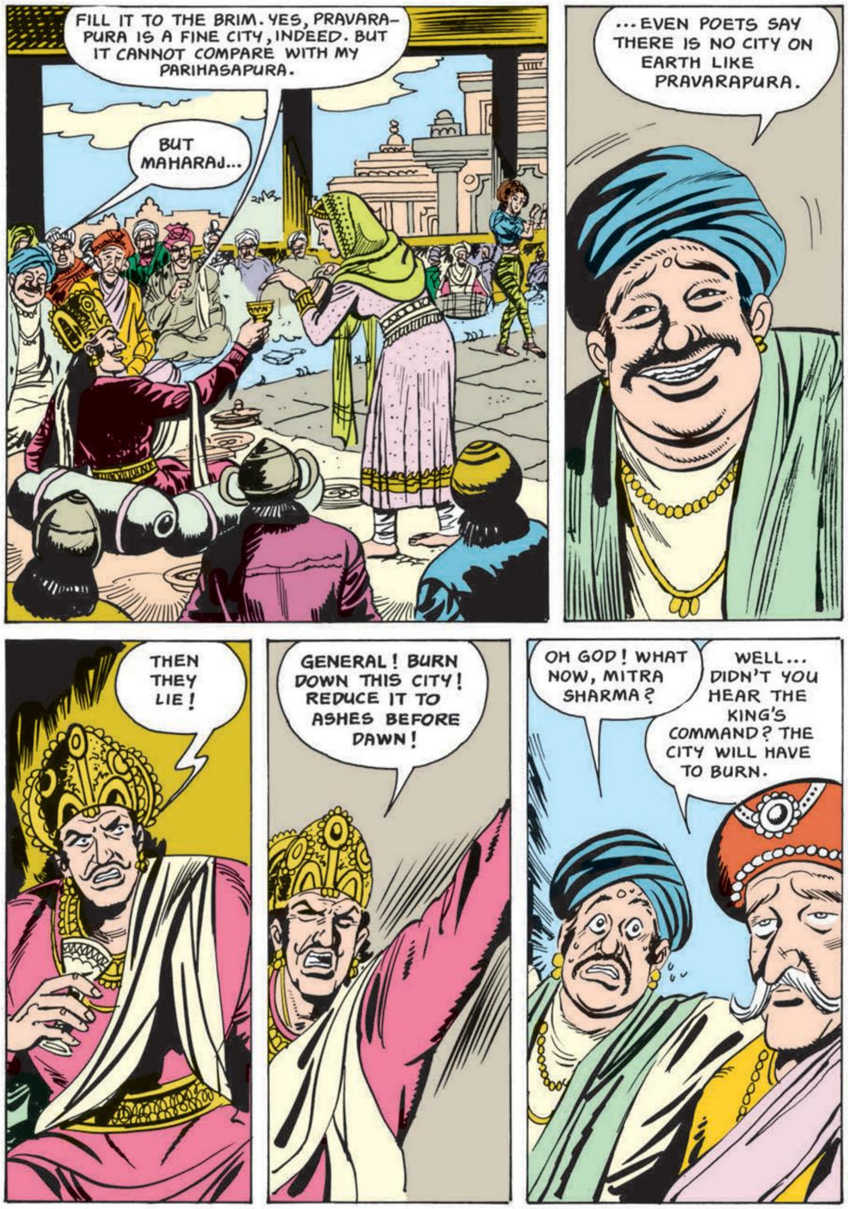
* TIBETANS

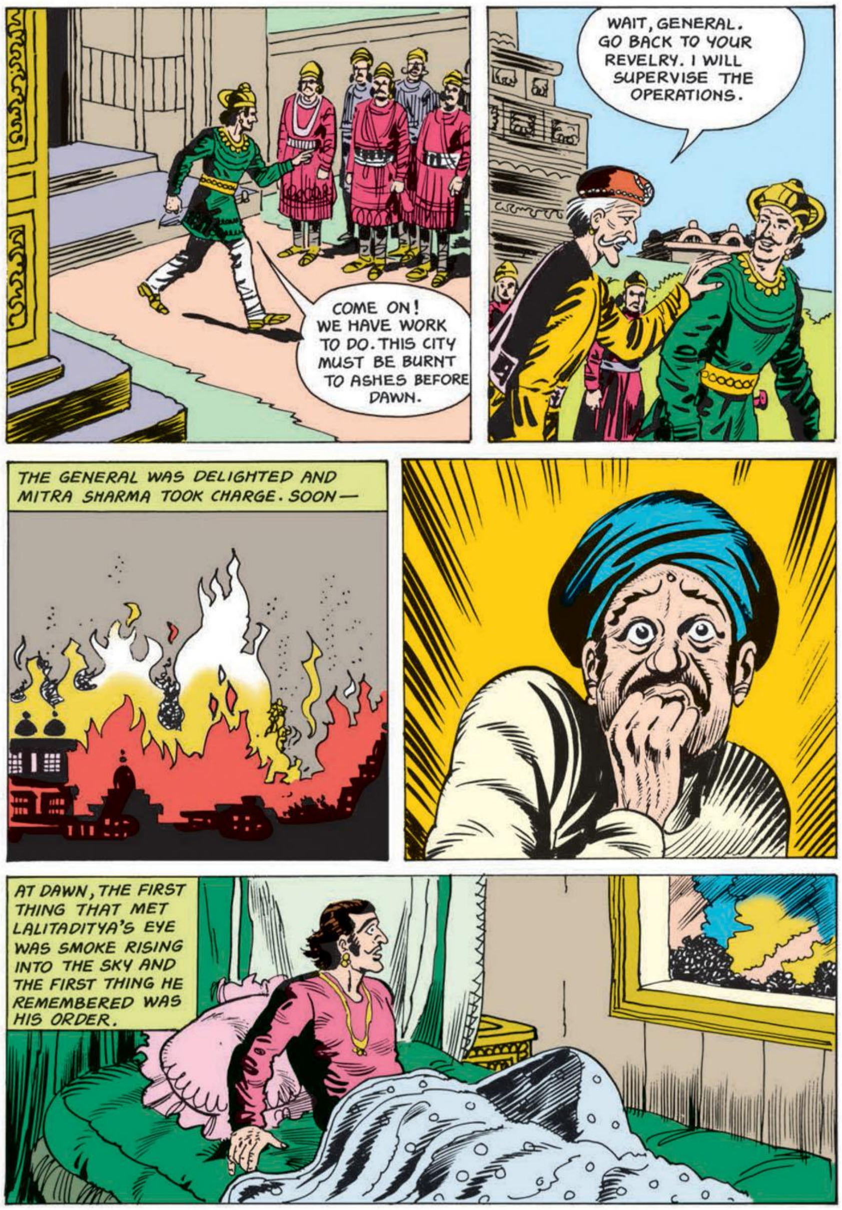

AND THERE IS NO SIGN OF THE HELP THAT WAS TO COME FROM CHINA.
THEN, WE SHALL DEPEND ON OUR OWN STRENGTH AND COURAGE—NEITHER OF WHICH WE LACK.
JUST THEN A MESSENGER ARRIVED.
MAHARAJ, MUMMUNI HAS SENT ONE DIVISION OF HIS ARMY TO KANYAKUBJA* AND IS MARCHING TOWARDS OUR CITY WITH THE OTHER.
GOOD. THAT WILL MAKE OUR TASK EASIER. WE SHALL ATTACK HIM AND MAKE SURE HE THINKS TWICE BEFORE SETTING FOOT ON OUR SOIL AGAIN.
LALITADITYA HIMSELF LED THE ATTACK.

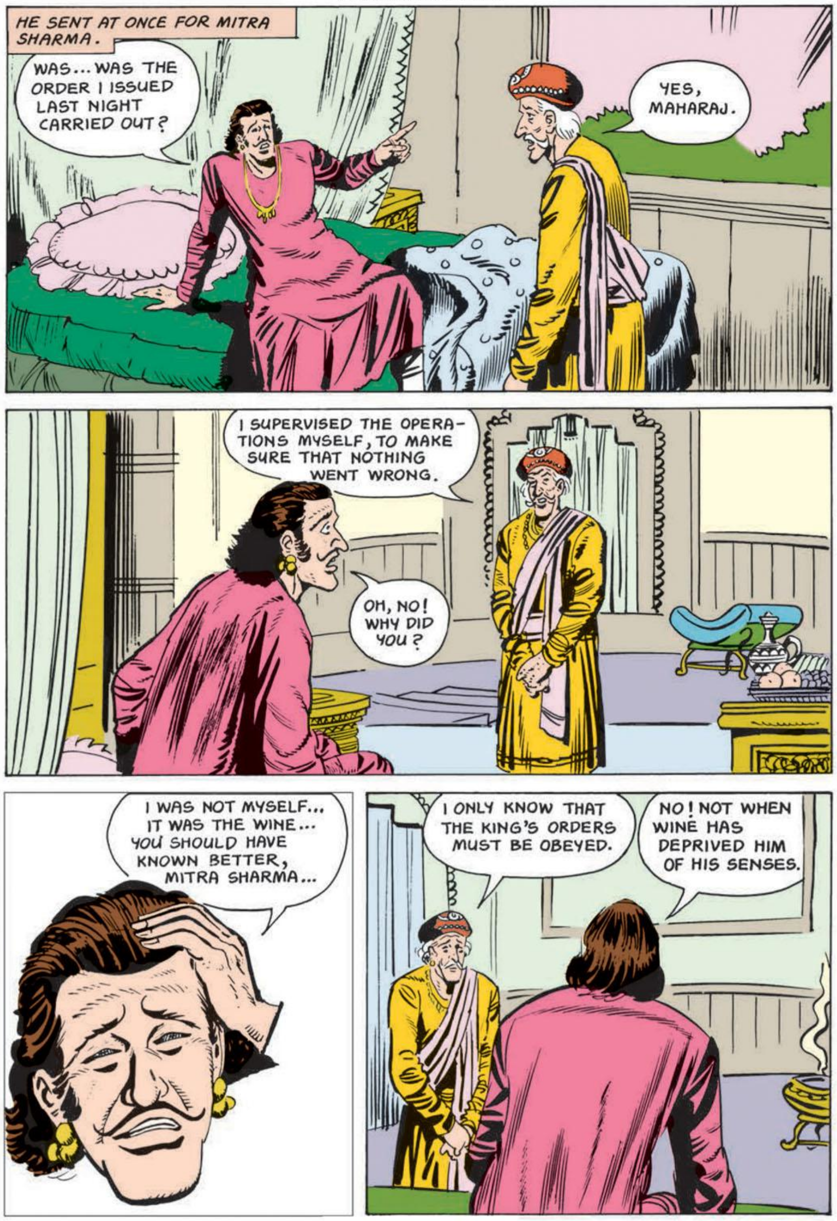
* KANAUJ

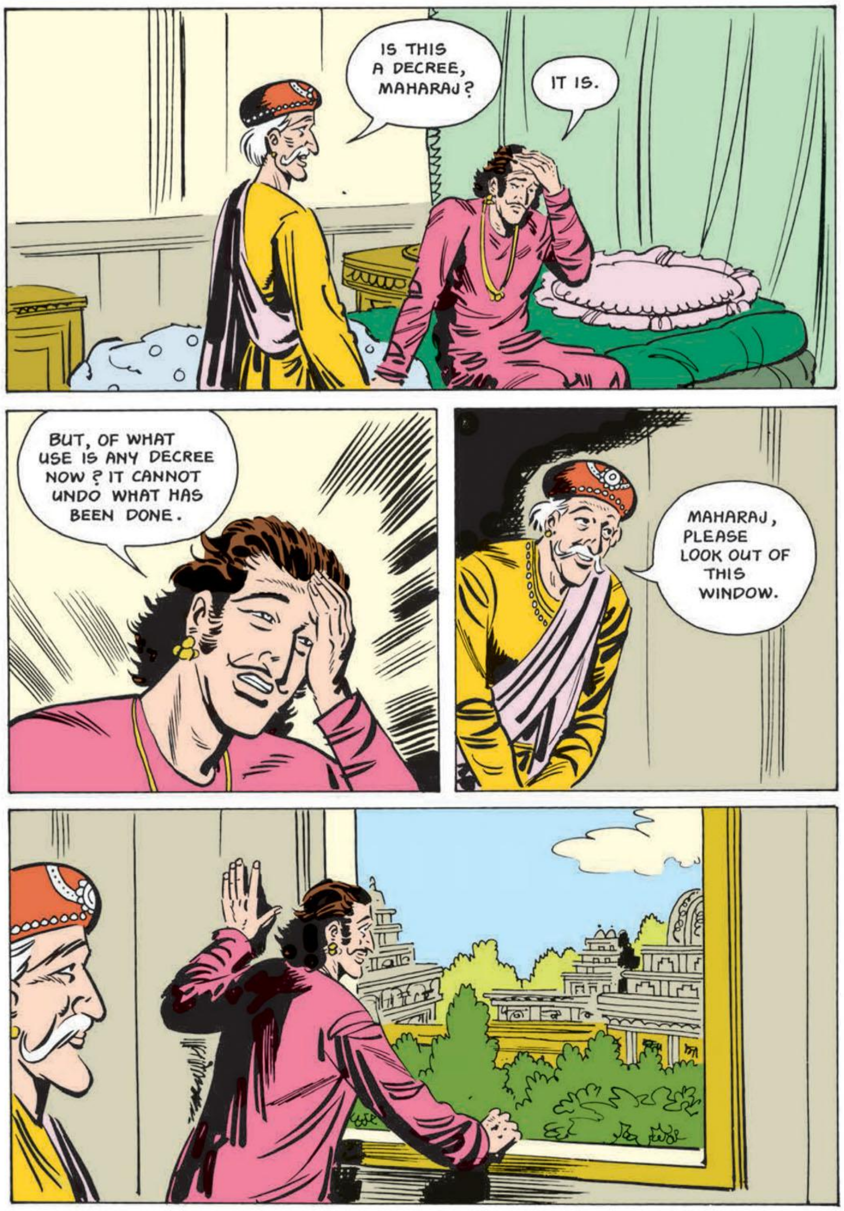

THE VALIANT KASHMIRI SOLDIERS ROUTED THE MARAUDERS IN NO TIME.
GLORY TO RAJA LALITADITYA!
TO COMMEMORATE HIS VICTORY, LALITADITYA BUILT MANY CITIES; BUT THE ONE HE WAS PROUDEST OF WAS PARIHASAPURA.
THERE IS NO CITY IN THE LAND AS MAGNIFICENT AS THIS ONE.
MAHARAJ, HAVE YOU SEEN PRAVARAPURA, THE CITY BUILT BY YOUR ANCESTOR, PRAVARASENA?
NO, NAGARSETH.* BUT I SHALL NOW.
NAGARSETH OF PRAVARAPURA WAS A NOBLE IN THE COURT OF LALITADITYA.
AT PRAVARAPURA—
YOUR WINE IS EXCELLENT, NAGARSETH.
PRAVARAPURA SERVES THE BEST WINE IN THE LAND, MAHARAJ.

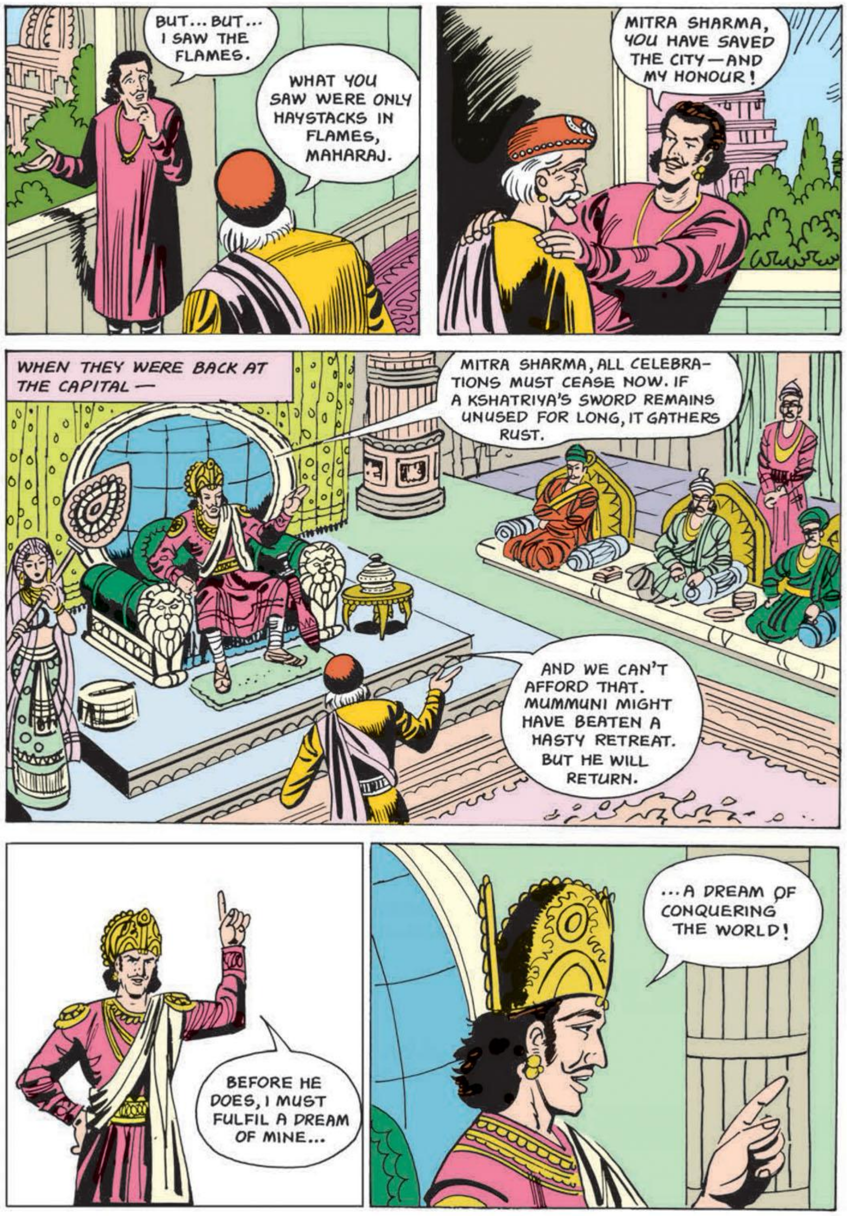
*THE CHIEF OF THE MERCHANTS' GUILD

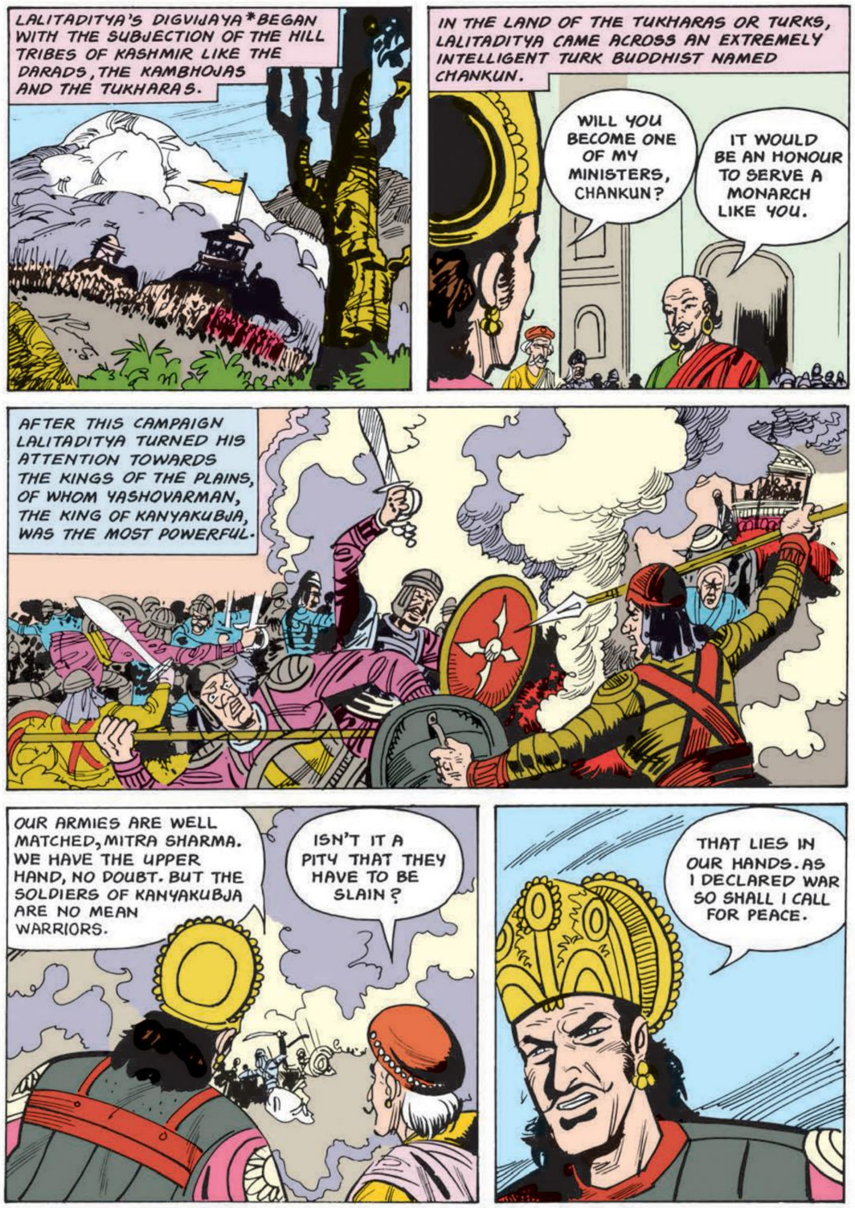

FILL IT TO THE BRIM. YES, PRAVARAPURA IS A FINE CITY, INDEED. BUT IT CANNOT COMPARE WITH MY PARIHASAPURA.
BUT MAHARAJ...
...EVEN POETS SAY THERE IS NO CITY ON EARTH LIKE PRAVARAPURA.
THEN THEY LIE!
GENERAL! BURN DOWN THIS CITY! REDUCE IT TO ASHES BEFORE DAWN!
OH GOD! WHAT NOW, MITRA SHARMA?
WELL... DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE KING'S COMMAND? THE CITY WILL HAVE TO BURN.


COME ON! WE HAVE WORK TO DO. THIS CITY MUST BE BURNT TO ASHES BEFORE DAWN.
WAIT, GENERAL. GO BACK TO YOUR REVELRY. I WILL SUPERVISE THE OPERATIONS.
THE GENERAL WAS DELIGHTED AND MITRA SHARMA TOOK CHARGE. SOON—
AT DAWN, THE FIRST THING THAT MET LALITADITYA'S EYE WAS SMOKE RISING INTO THE SKY AND THE FIRST THING HE REMEMBERED WAS HIS ORDER.

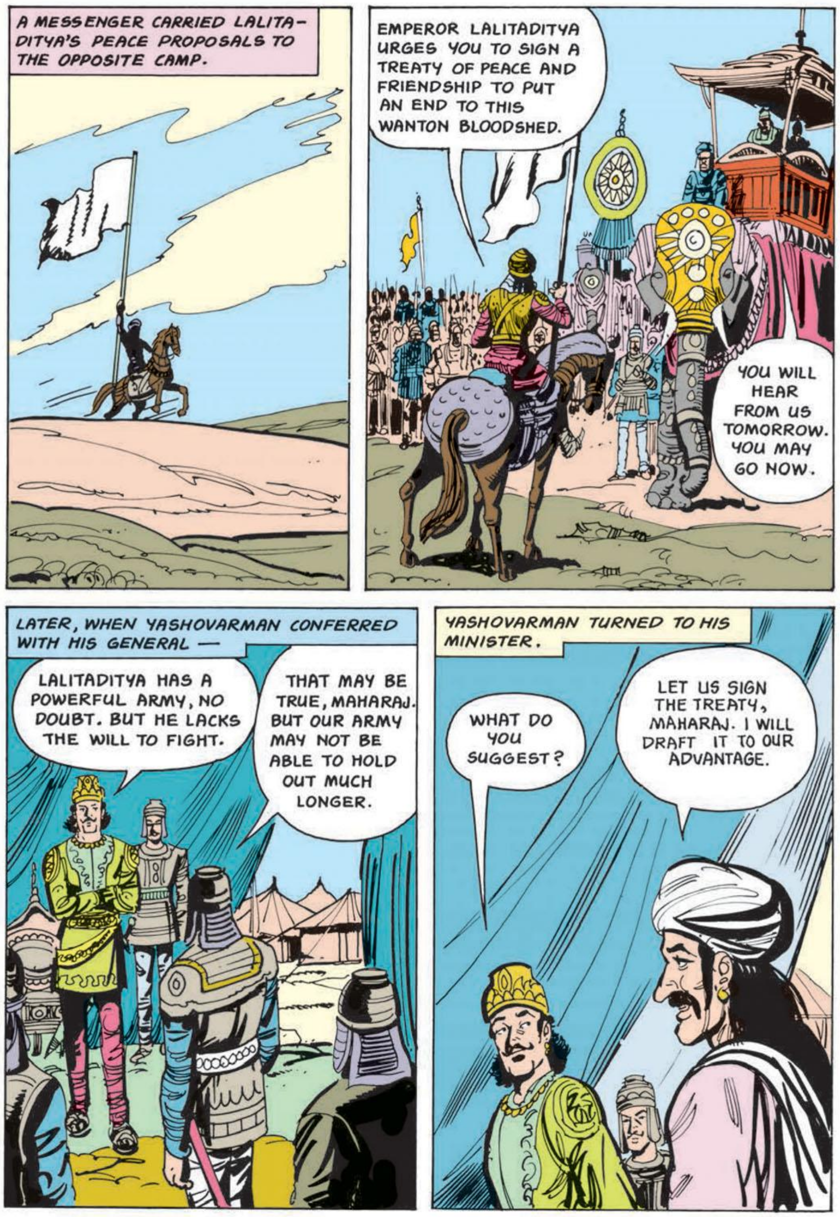

HE SENT AT ONCE FOR MITRA SHARMA.
WAS... WAS THE ORDER I ISSUED LAST NIGHT CARRIED OUT?
YES, MAHARAJ.
I SUPERVISED THE OPERATIONS MYSELF, TO MAKE SURE THAT NOTHING WENT WRONG.
OH, NO! WHY DID YOU?
I WAS NOT MYSELF... IT WAS THE WINE... YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER, MITRA SHARMA...
I ONLY KNOW THAT THE KING'S ORDERS MUST BE OBEYED.
NO! NOT WHEN WINE HAS DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SENSES.

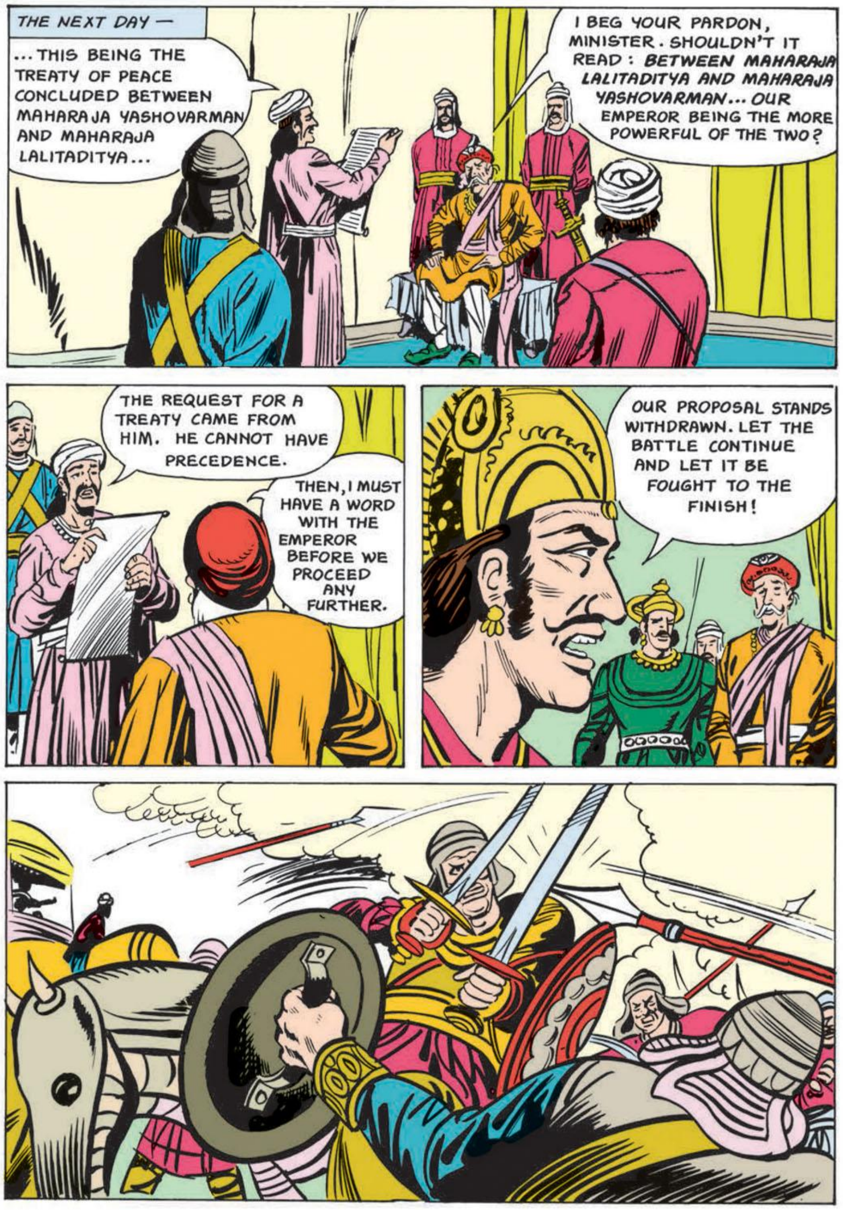

IS THIS A DECREE, MAHARAJ?
IT IS.
BUT, OF WHAT USE IS ANY DECREE NOW? IT CANNOT UNDO WHAT HAS BEEN DONE.
MAHARAJ, PLEASE LOOK OUT OF THIS WINDOW.

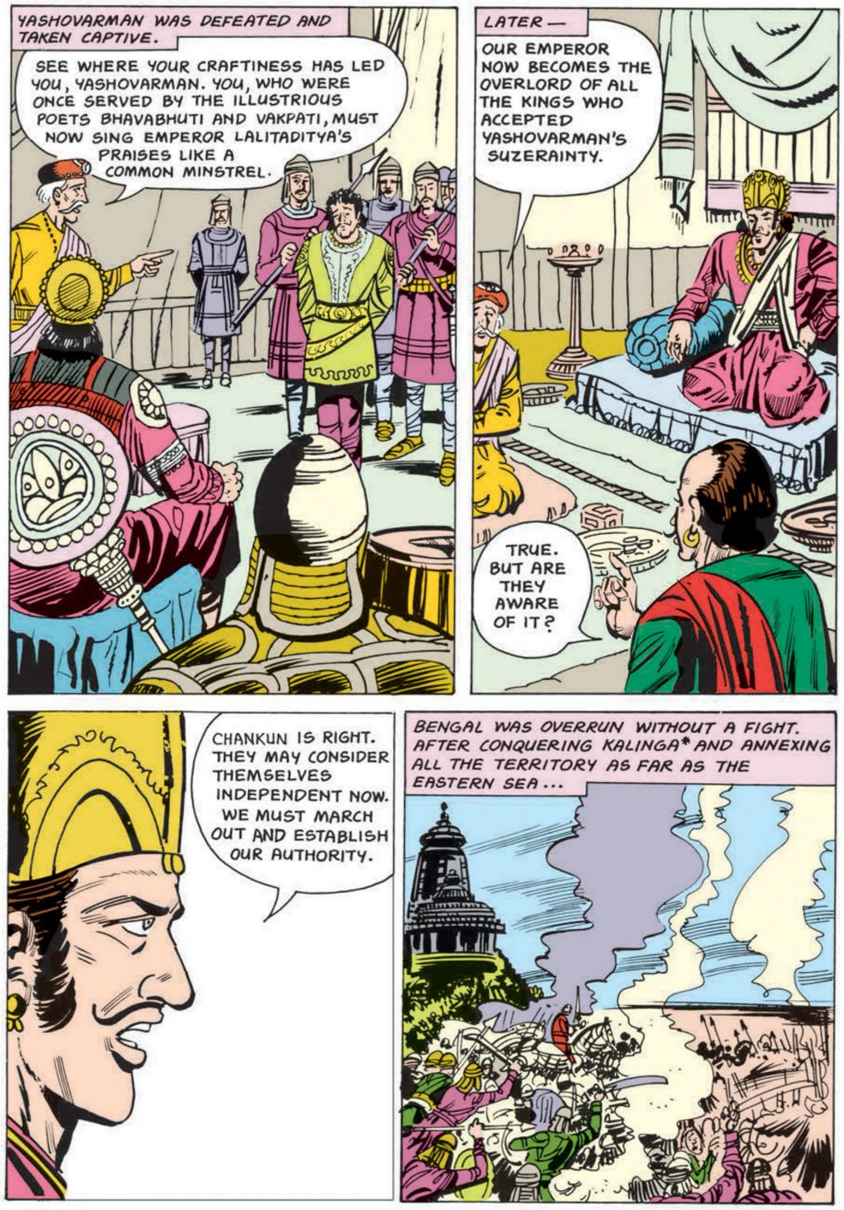

BUT... BUT... I SAW THE FLAMES.
WHAT YOU SAW WERE ONLY HAYSTACKS IN FLAMES, MAHARAJ.
MITRA SHARMA, YOU HAVE SAVED THE CITY—AND MY HONOUR!
WHEN THEY WERE BACK AT THE CAPITAL —
MITRA SHARMA, ALL CELEBRATIONS MUST CEASE NOW. IF A KSHATRIYA'S SWORD REMAINS UNUSED FOR LONG, IT GATHERS RUST.
AND WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT. MUMMUNI MIGHT HAVE BEATEN A HASTY RETREAT. BUT HE WILL RETURN.
BEFORE HE DOES, I MUST FULFIL A DREAM OF MINE...
...A DREAM OF CONQUERING THE WORLD!


LALITADITYA'S DIGVIJAYA* BEGAN WITH THE SUBJECTION OF THE HILL TRIBES OF KASHMIR LIKE THE DARADS, THE KAMBHOJAS AND THE TUKHARAS.
IN THE LAND OF THE TUKHARAS OR TURKS, LALITADITYA CAME ACROSS AN EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT TURK BUDDHIST NAMED CHANKUN.
WILL YOU BECOME ONE OF MY MINISTERS, CHANKUN?
IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR TO SERVE A MONARCH LIKE YOU.
AFTER THIS CAMPAIGN LALITADITYA TURNED HIS ATTENTION TOWARDS THE KINGS OF THE PLAINS, OF WHOM YASHOVARMAN, THE KING OF KANYAKUBJA, WAS THE MOST POWERFUL.
OUR ARMIES ARE WELL MATCHED, MITRA SHARMA. WE HAVE THE UPPER HAND, NO DOUBT. BUT THE SOLDIERS OF KANYAKUBJA ARE NO MEAN WARRIORS.
ISN'T IT A PITY THAT THEY HAVE TO BE SLAIN?
THAT LIES IN OUR HANDS. AS I DECLARED WAR SO SHALL I CALL FOR PEACE.

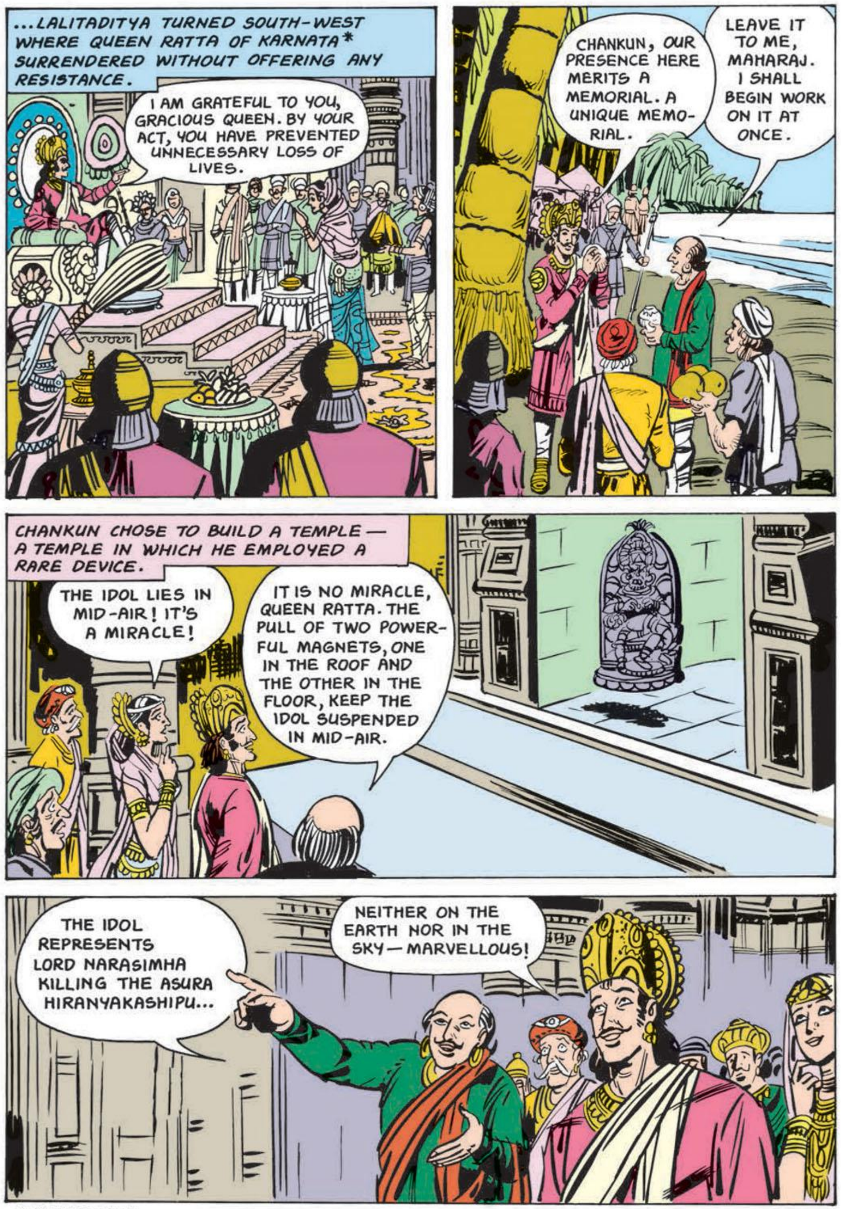
* CONQUEST OF THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD


A MESSENGER CARRIED LALITADITYA'S PEACE PROPOSALS TO THE OPPOSITE CAMP.
EMPEROR LALITADITYA URGES YOU TO SIGN A TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TO PUT AN END TO THIS WANTON BLOODSHED.
YOU WILL HEAR FROM US TOMORROW. YOU MAY GO NOW.
LATER, WHEN YASHOVARMAN CONFERRED WITH HIS GENERAL —
LALITADITYA HAS A POWERFUL ARMY, NO DOUBT. BUT HE LACKS THE WILL TO FIGHT.
THAT MAY BE TRUE, MAHARAJ. BUT OUR ARMY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER.
YASHOVARMAN TURNED TO HIS MINISTER.
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
LET US SIGN THE TREATY, MAHARAJ. I WILL DRAFT IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

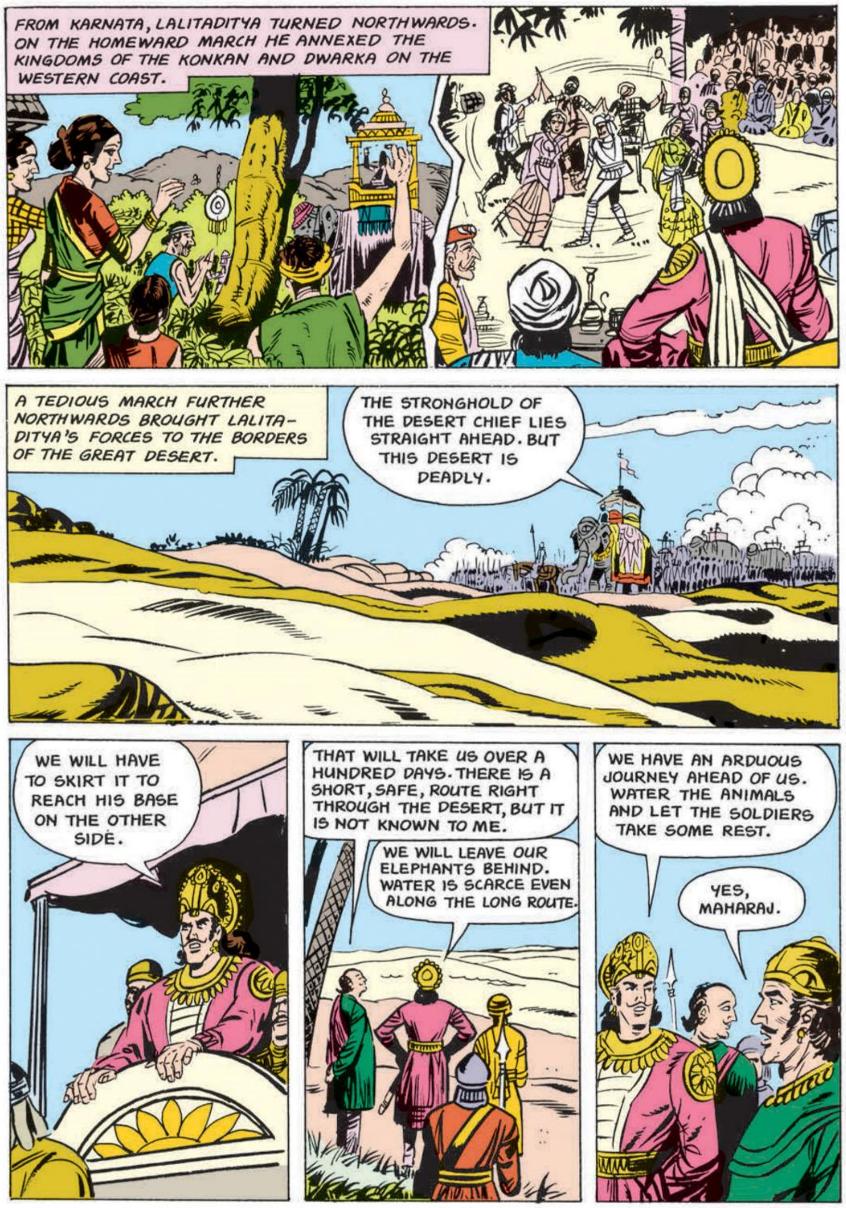

THE NEXT DAY —
... THIS BEING THE TREATY OF PEACE CONCLUDED BETWEEN MAHARAJA YASHOVARMAN AND MAHARAJA LALITADITYA ...
I BEG YOUR PARDON, MINISTER. SHOULDN'T IT READ : ***BETWEEN MAHARAJA LALITADITYA AND MAHARAJA YASHOVARMAN ... OUR*** EMPEROR BEING THE MORE POWERFUL OF THE TWO?
THE REQUEST FOR A TREATY CAME FROM HIM. HE CANNOT HAVE PRECEDENCE.
THEN, I MUST HAVE A WORD WITH THE EMPEROR BEFORE WE PROCEED ANY FURTHER.
OUR PROPOSAL STANDS WITHDRAWN. LET THE BATTLE CONTINUE AND LET IT BE FOUGHT TO THE FINISH!

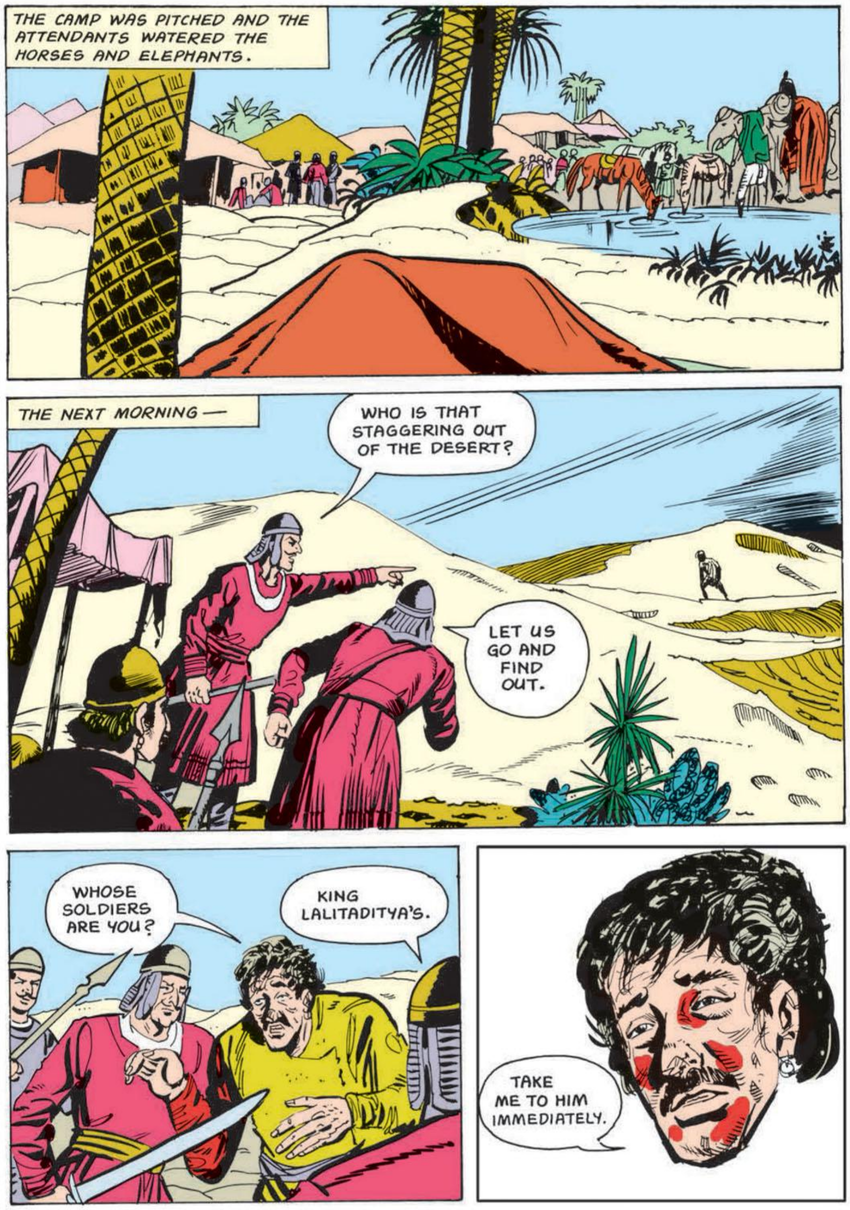

YASHOVARMAN WAS DEFEATED AND TAKEN CAPTIVE.
SEE WHERE YOUR CRAFTINESS HAS LED YOU, YASHOVARMAN. YOU, WHO WERE ONCE SERVED BY THE ILLUSTRIOUS POETS BHAVABHUTI AND VAKPATI, MUST NOW SING EMPEROR LALITADITYA'S PRAISES LIKE A COMMON MINSTREL.
LATER —
OUR EMPEROR NOW BECOMES THE OVERLORD OF ALL THE KINGS WHO ACCEPTED YASHOVARMAN'S SUZERAINTY.
TRUE. BUT ARE THEY AWARE OF IT?
CHANKUN IS RIGHT. THEY MAY CONSIDER THEMSELVES INDEPENDENT NOW. WE MUST MARCH OUT AND ESTABLISH OUR AUTHORITY.
BENGAL WAS OVERRUN WITHOUT A FIGHT. AFTER CONQUERING KALINGA* AND ANNEXING ALL THE TERRITORY AS FAR AS THE EASTERN SEA ...

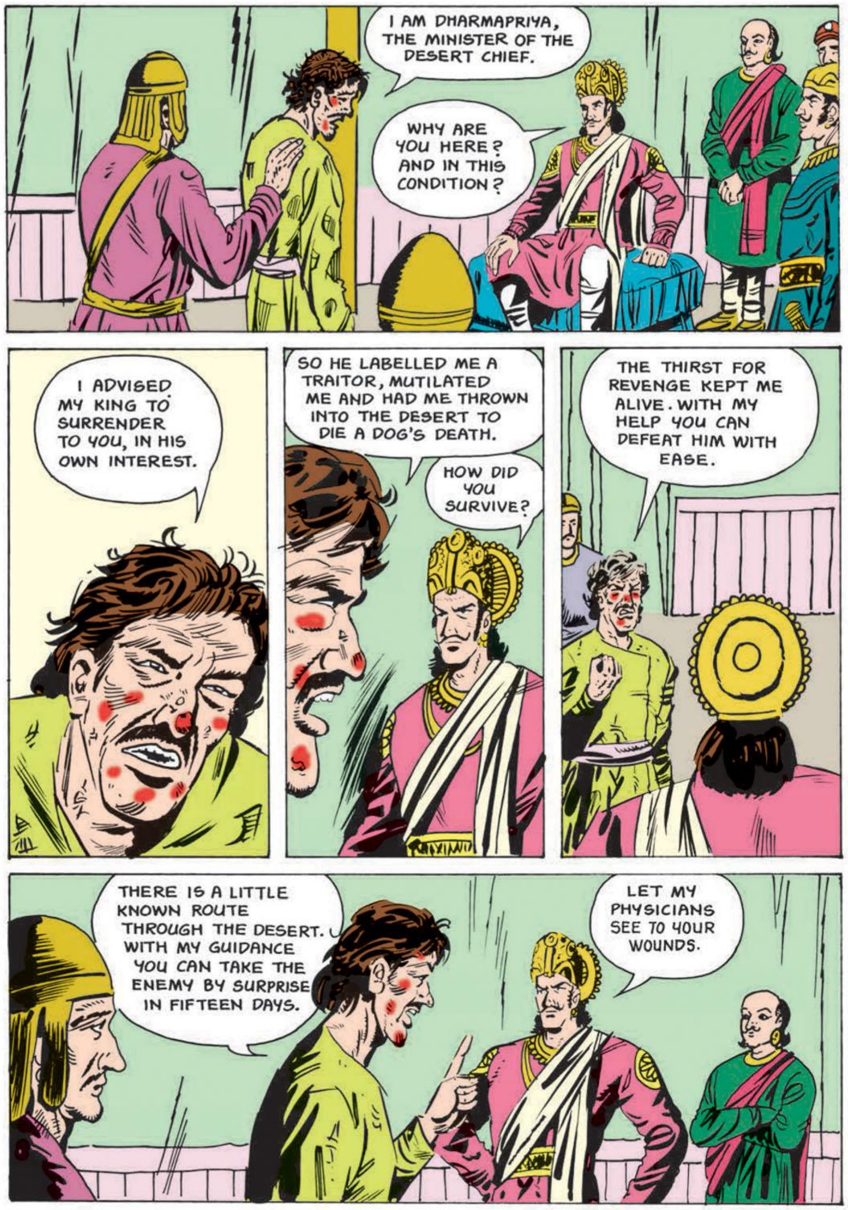
*ORISSA

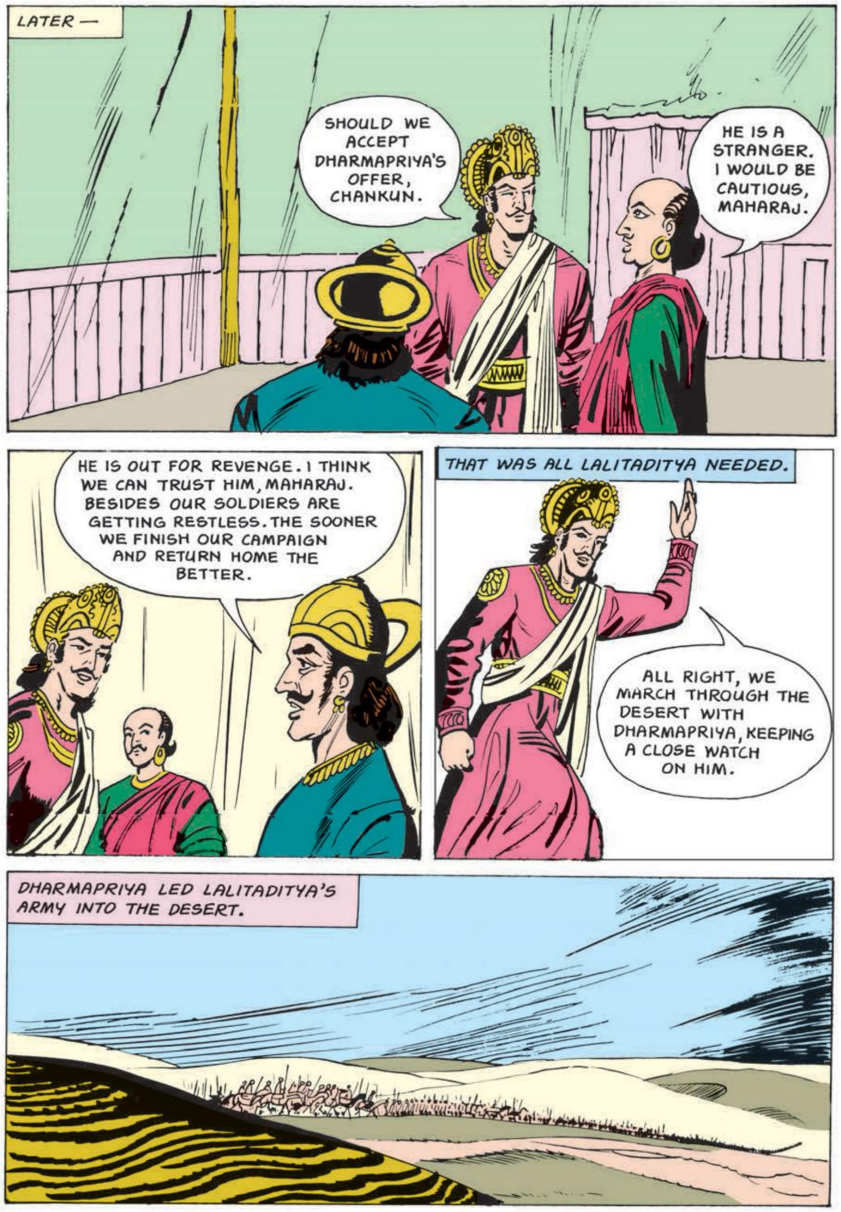

...LALITADITYA TURNED SOUTH-WEST WHERE QUEEN RATTA OF KARNATA* SURRENDERED WITHOUT OFFERING ANY RESISTANCE.
I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, GRACIOUS QUEEN. BY YOUR ACT, YOU HAVE PREVENTED UNNECESSARY LOSS OF LIVES.
CHANKUN, OUR PRESENCE HERE MERITS A MEMORIAL. A UNIQUE MEMORIAL.
LEAVE IT TO ME, MAHARAJ. I SHALL BEGIN WORK ON IT AT ONCE.
CHANKUN CHOSE TO BUILD A TEMPLE — A TEMPLE IN WHICH HE EMPLOYED A RARE DEVICE.
THE IDOL LIES IN MID-AIR! IT'S A MIRACLE!
IT IS NO MIRACLE, QUEEN RATTA. THE PULL OF TWO POWERFUL MAGNETS, ONE IN THE ROOF AND THE OTHER IN THE FLOOR, KEEP THE IDOL SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR.
THE IDOL REPRESENTS LORD NARASIMHA KILLING THE ASURA HIRANYAKASHIPU...
NEITHER ON THE EARTH NOR IN THE SKY — MARVELLOUS!

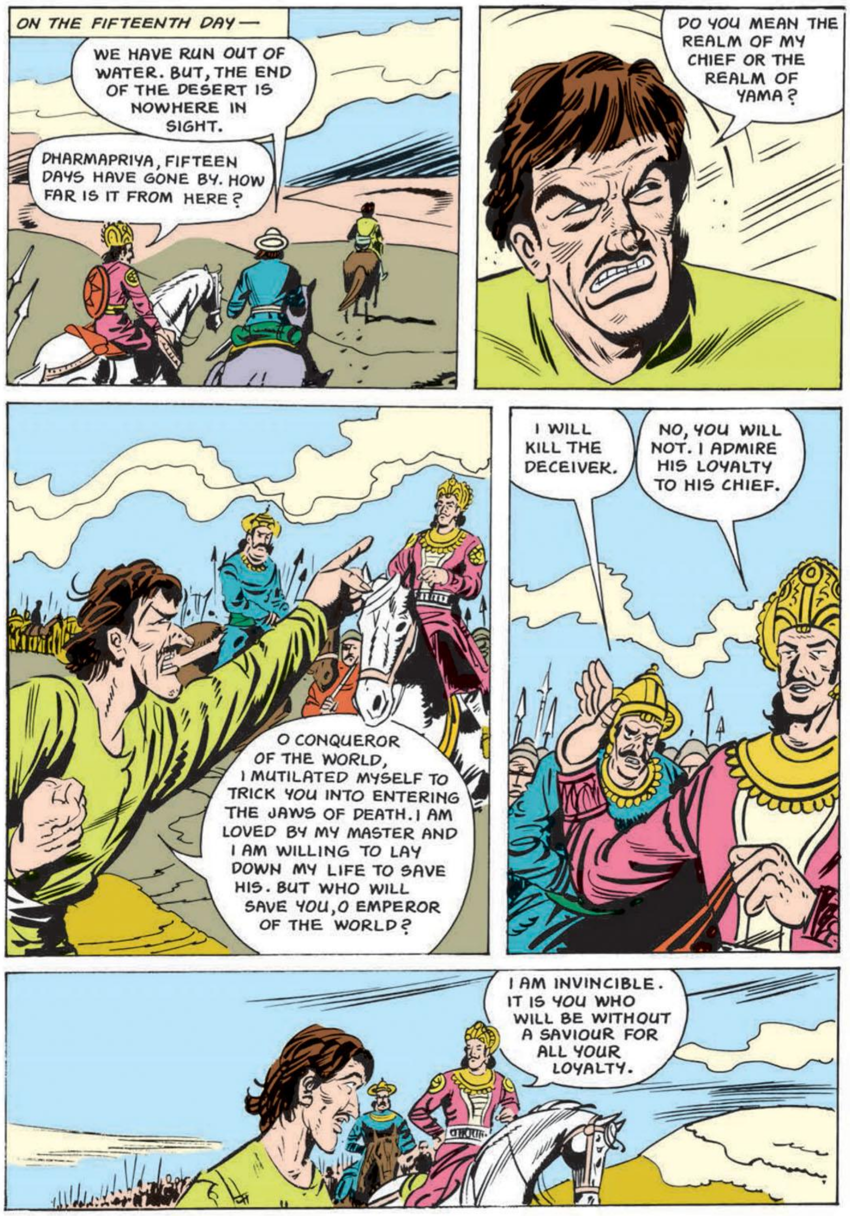
* KARNATAKA

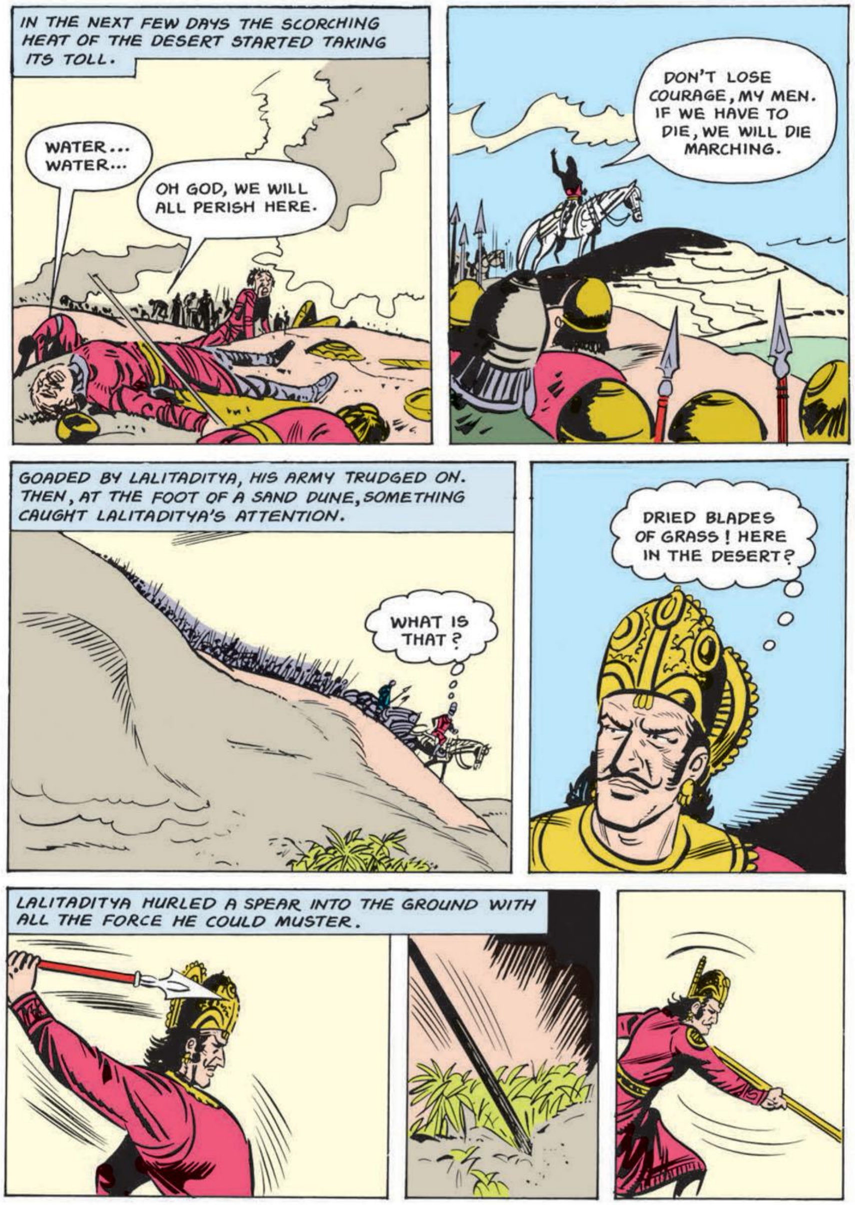

FROM KARNATA, LALITADITYA TURNED NORTHWARDS. ON THE HOMEWARD MARCH HE ANNEXED THE KINGDOMS OF THE KONKAN AND DWARKA ON THE WESTERN COAST.
A TEDIOUS MARCH FURTHER NORTHWARDS BROUGHT LALITADITYA'S FORCES TO THE BORDERS OF THE GREAT DESERT.
THE STRONGHOLD OF THE DESERT CHIEF LIES STRAIGHT AHEAD. BUT THIS DESERT IS DEADLY.
WE WILL HAVE TO SKIRT IT TO REACH HIS BASE ON THE OTHER SIDE.
THAT WILL TAKE US OVER A HUNDRED DAYS. THERE IS A SHORT, SAFE, ROUTE RIGHT THROUGH THE DESERT, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN TO ME.
WE WILL LEAVE OUR ELEPHANTS BEHIND. WATER IS SCARCE EVEN ALONG THE LONG ROUTE.
WE HAVE AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY AHEAD OF US. WATER THE ANIMALS AND LET THE SOLDIERS TAKE SOME REST.
YES, MAHARAJ.

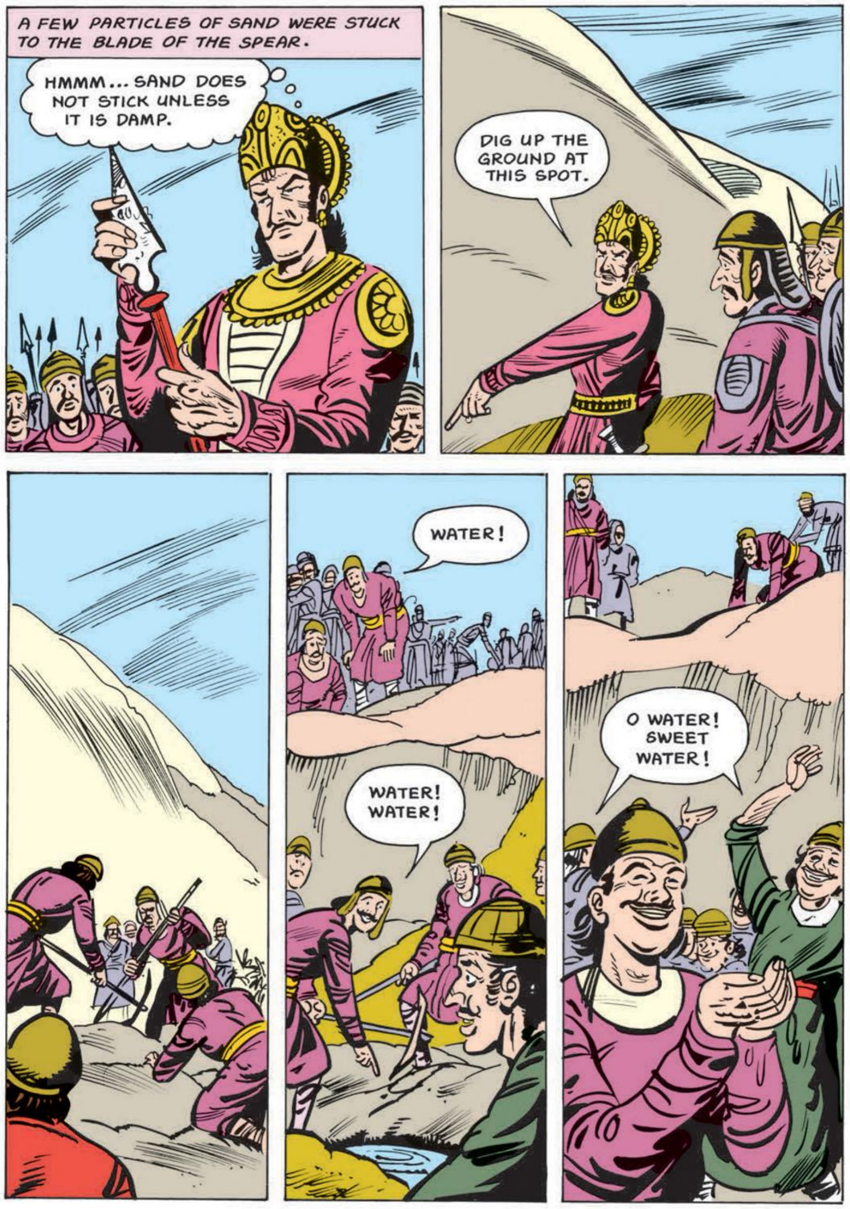

THE CAMP WAS PITCHED AND THE ATTENDANTS WATERED THE HORSES AND ELEPHANTS.
THE NEXT MORNING —
WHO IS THAT STAGGERING OUT OF THE DESERT?
LET US GO AND FIND OUT.
WHOSE SOLDIERS ARE YOU?
KING LALITADITYA'S.
TAKE ME TO HIM IMMEDIATELY.

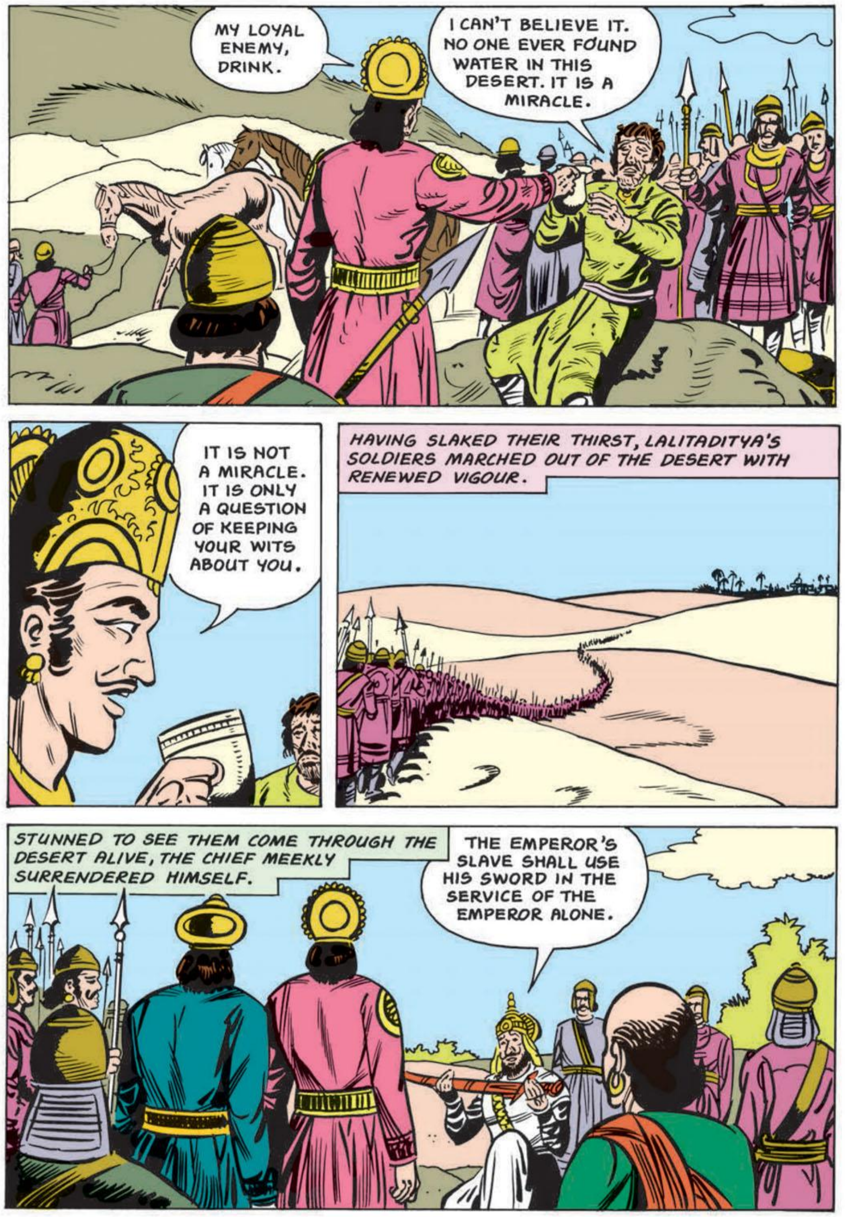

I AM DHARMAPRIYA, THE MINISTER OF THE DESERT CHIEF.
WHY ARE YOU HERE? AND IN THIS CONDITION?
I ADVISED MY KING TO SURRENDER TO YOU, IN HIS OWN INTEREST.
SO HE LABELLED ME A TRAITOR, MUTILATED ME AND HAD ME THROWN INTO THE DESERT TO DIE A DOG'S DEATH.
HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?
THE THIRST FOR REVENGE KEPT ME ALIVE. WITH MY HELP YOU CAN DEFEAT HIM WITH EASE.
THERE IS A LITTLE KNOWN ROUTE THROUGH THE DESERT. WITH MY GUIDANCE YOU CAN TAKE THE ENEMY BY SURPRISE IN FIFTEEN DAYS.
LET MY PHYSICIANS SEE TO YOUR WOUNDS.

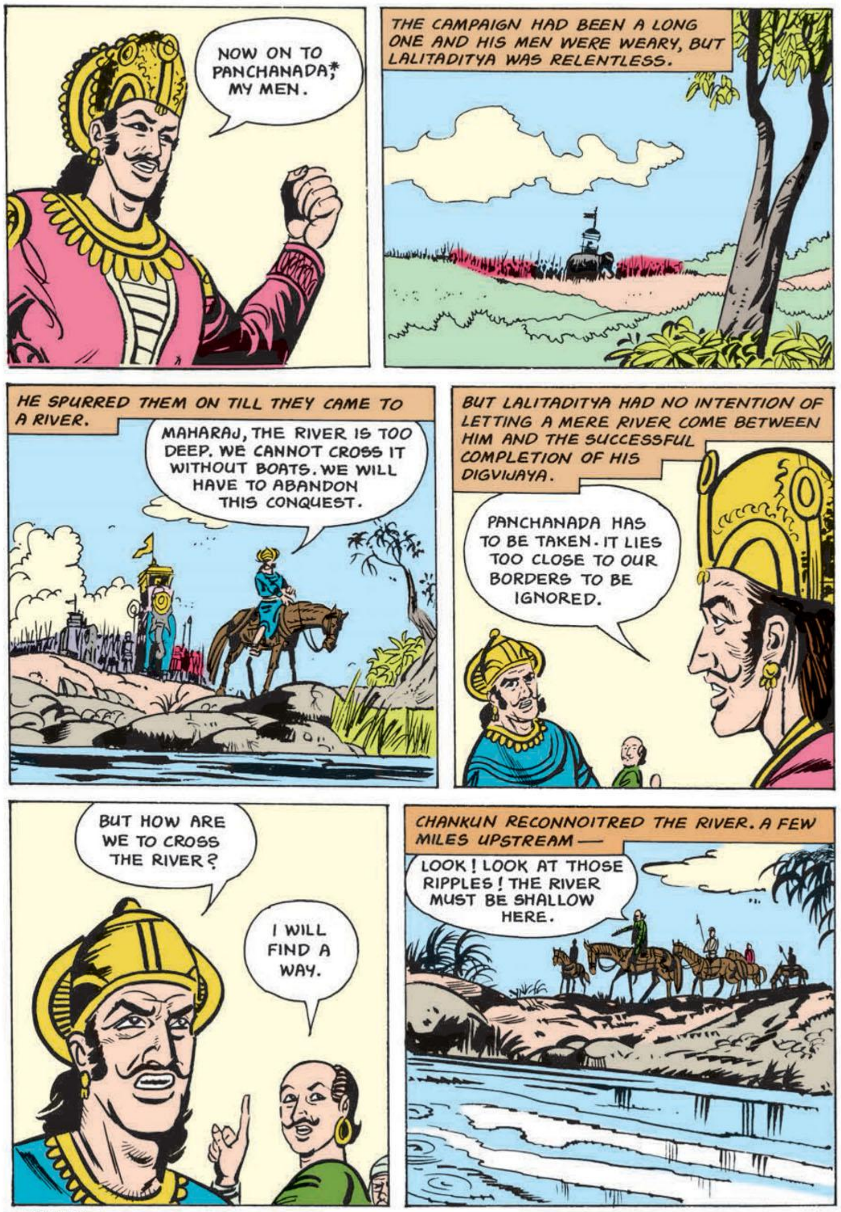

LATER —
SHOULD WE ACCEPT DHARMAPRIYA'S OFFER, CHANKUN.
HE IS A STRANGER. I WOULD BE CAUTIOUS, MAHARAJ.
HE IS OUT FOR REVENGE. I THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM, MAHARAJ. BESIDES OUR SOLDIERS ARE GETTING RESTLESS. THE SOONER WE FINISH OUR CAMPAIGN AND RETURN HOME THE BETTER.
THAT WAS ALL LALITADITYA NEEDED.
ALL RIGHT, WE MARCH THROUGH THE DESERT WITH DHARMAPRIYA, KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON HIM.
DHARMAPRIYA LED LALITADITYA'S ARMY INTO THE DESERT.


ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY—
WE HAVE RUN OUT OF WATER. BUT, THE END OF THE DESERT IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT.
DHARMAPRIYA, FIFTEEN DAYS HAVE GONE BY. HOW FAR IS IT FROM HERE?
DO YOU MEAN THE REALM OF MY CHIEF OR THE REALM OF YAMA?
O CONQUEROR OF THE WORLD, I MUTILATED MYSELF TO TRICK YOU INTO ENTERING THE JAWS OF DEATH. I AM LOVED BY MY MASTER AND I AM WILLING TO LAY DOWN MY LIFE TO SAVE HIS. BUT WHO WILL SAVE YOU, O EMPEROR OF THE WORLD?
I WILL KILL THE DECEIVER.
NO, YOU WILL NOT. I ADMIRE HIS LOYALTY TO HIS CHIEF.
I AM INVINCIBLE. IT IS YOU WHO WILL BE WITHOUT A SAVIOUR FOR ALL YOUR LOYALTY.

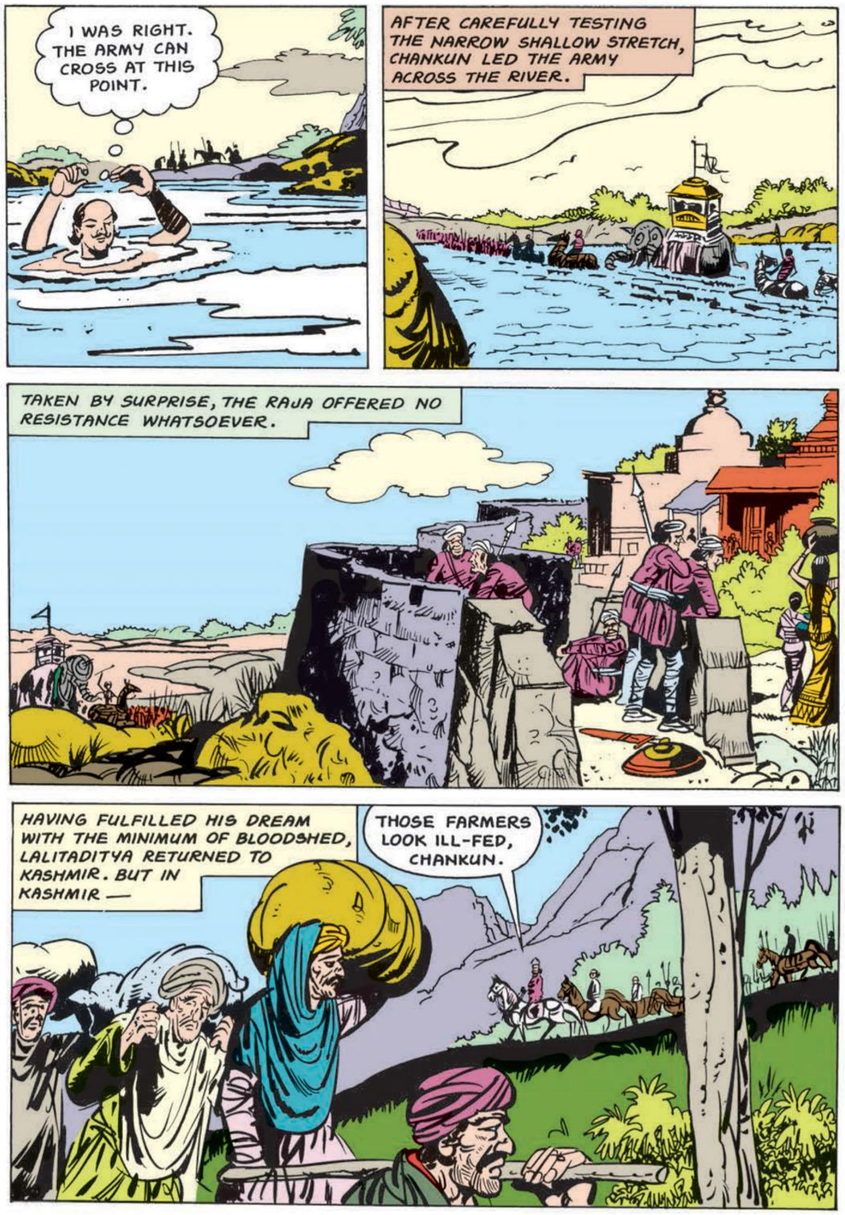

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE SCORCHING HEAT OF THE DESERT STARTED TAKING ITS TOLL.
WATER... WATER...
OH GOD, WE WILL ALL PERISH HERE.
DON'T LOSE COURAGE, MY MEN. IF WE HAVE TO DIE, WE WILL DIE MARCHING.
GOADED BY LALITADITYA, HIS ARMY TRUDGED ON. THEN, AT THE FOOT OF A SAND DUNE, SOMETHING CAUGHT LALITADITYA'S ATTENTION.
WHAT IS THAT?
DRIED BLADES OF GRASS! HERE IN THE DESERT?
LALITADITYA HURLED A SPEAR INTO THE GROUND WITH ALL THE FORCE HE COULD MUSTER.

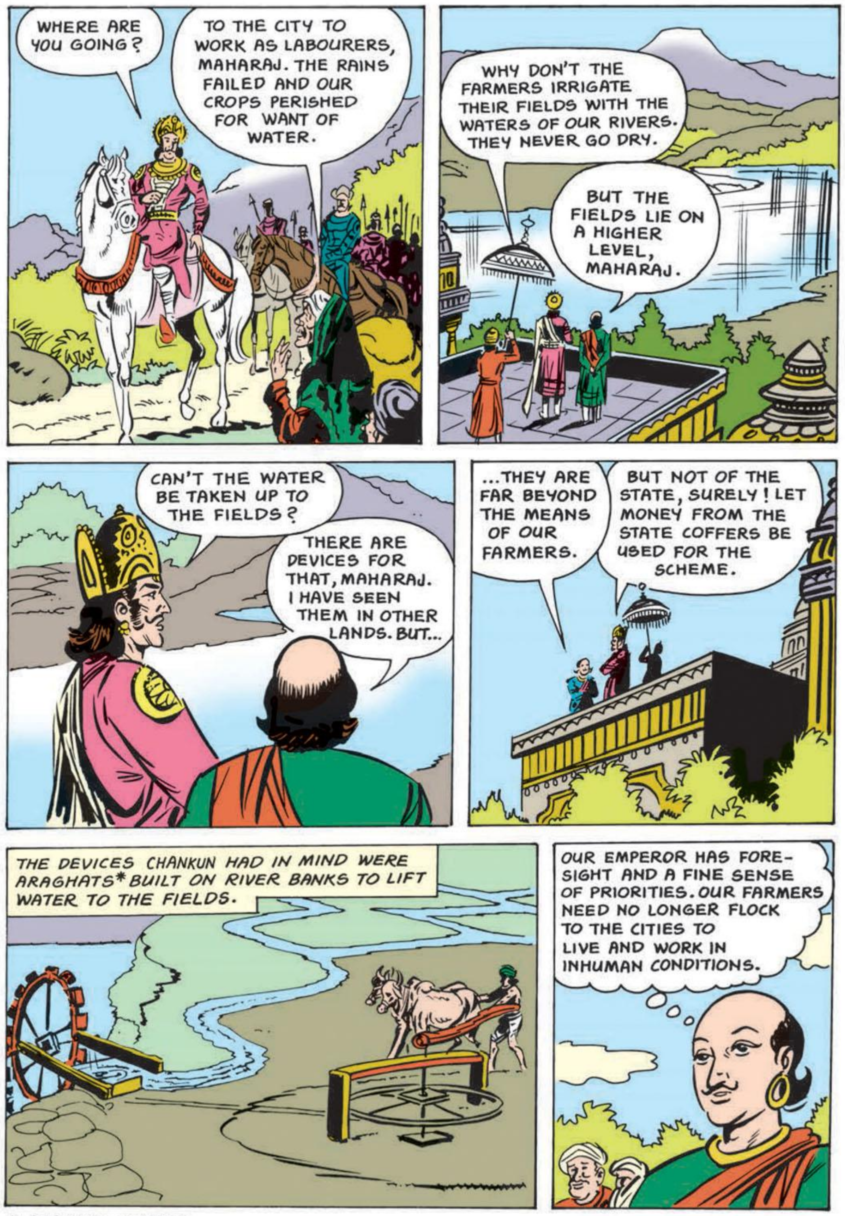

A FEW PARTICLES OF SAND WERE STUCK TO THE BLADE OF THE SPEAR.
HMMM... SAND DOES NOT STICK UNLESS IT IS DAMP.
DIG UP THE GROUND AT THIS SPOT.
WATER!
WATER! WATER!
O WATER! SWEET WATER!


MY LOYAL ENEMY, DRINK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. NO ONE EVER FOUND WATER IN THIS DESERT. IT IS A MIRACLE.
IT IS NOT A MIRACLE. IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF KEEPING YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.
HAVING SLAKED THEIR THIRST, LALITADITYA'S SOLDIERS MARCHED OUT OF THE DESERT WITH RENEWED VIGOUR.
STUNNED TO SEE THEM COME THROUGH THE DESERT ALIVE, THE CHIEF MEEKLY SURRENDERED HIMSELF.
THE EMPEROR'S SLAVE SHALL USE HIS SWORD IN THE SERVICE OF THE EMPEROR ALONE.

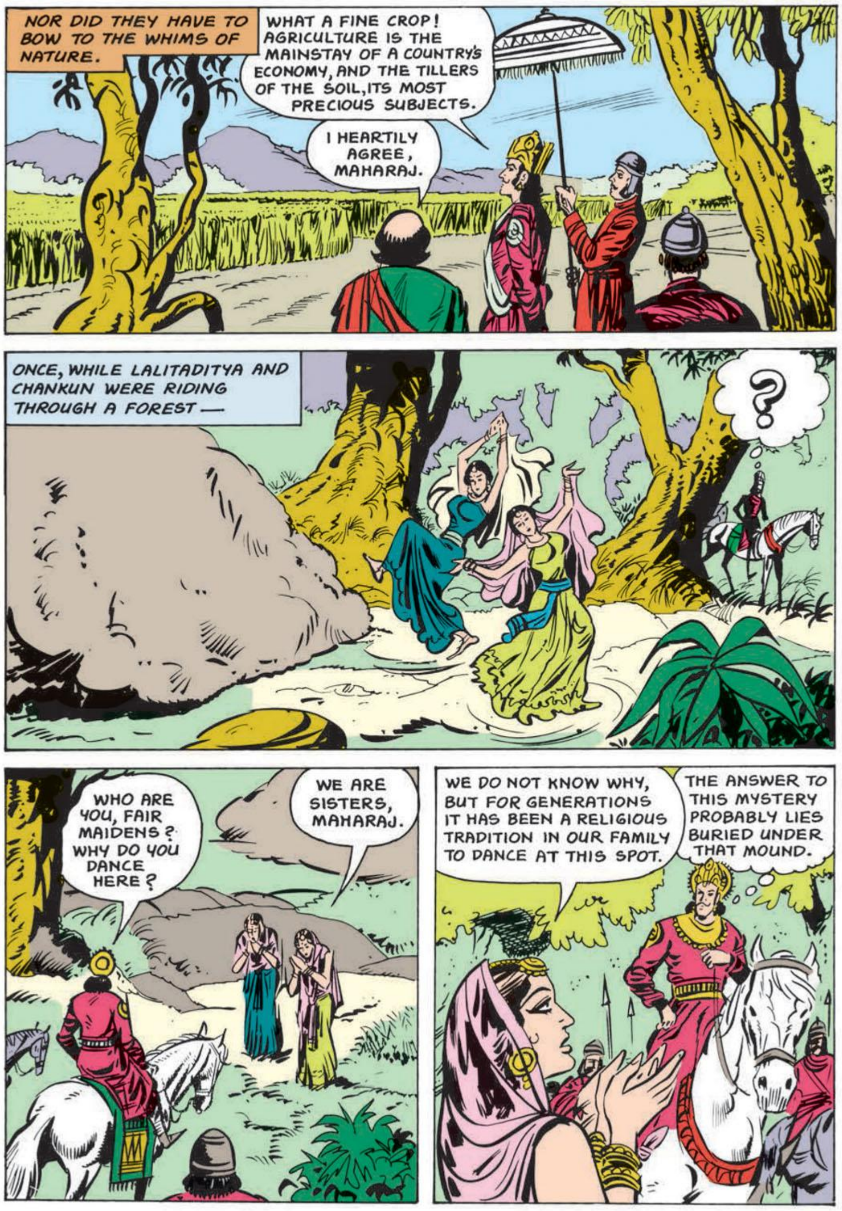

NOW ON TO PANCHANADA,* MY MEN.
THE CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN A LONG ONE AND HIS MEN WERE WEARY, BUT LALITADITYA WAS RELENTLESS.
HE SPURRED THEM ON TILL THEY CAME TO A RIVER.
MAHARAJ, THE RIVER IS TOO DEEP. WE CANNOT CROSS IT WITHOUT BOATS. WE WILL HAVE TO ABANDON THIS CONQUEST.
BUT LALITADITYA HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING A MERE RIVER COME BETWEEN HIM AND THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIS DIGVIJAYA.
PANCHANADA HAS TO BE TAKEN. IT LIES TOO CLOSE TO OUR BORDERS TO BE IGNORED.
BUT HOW ARE WE TO CROSS THE RIVER?
I WILL FIND A WAY.
CHANKUN RECONNOITRED THE RIVER. A FEW MILES UPSTREAM —
LOOK! LOOK AT THOSE RIPPLES! THE RIVER MUST BE SHALLOW HERE.

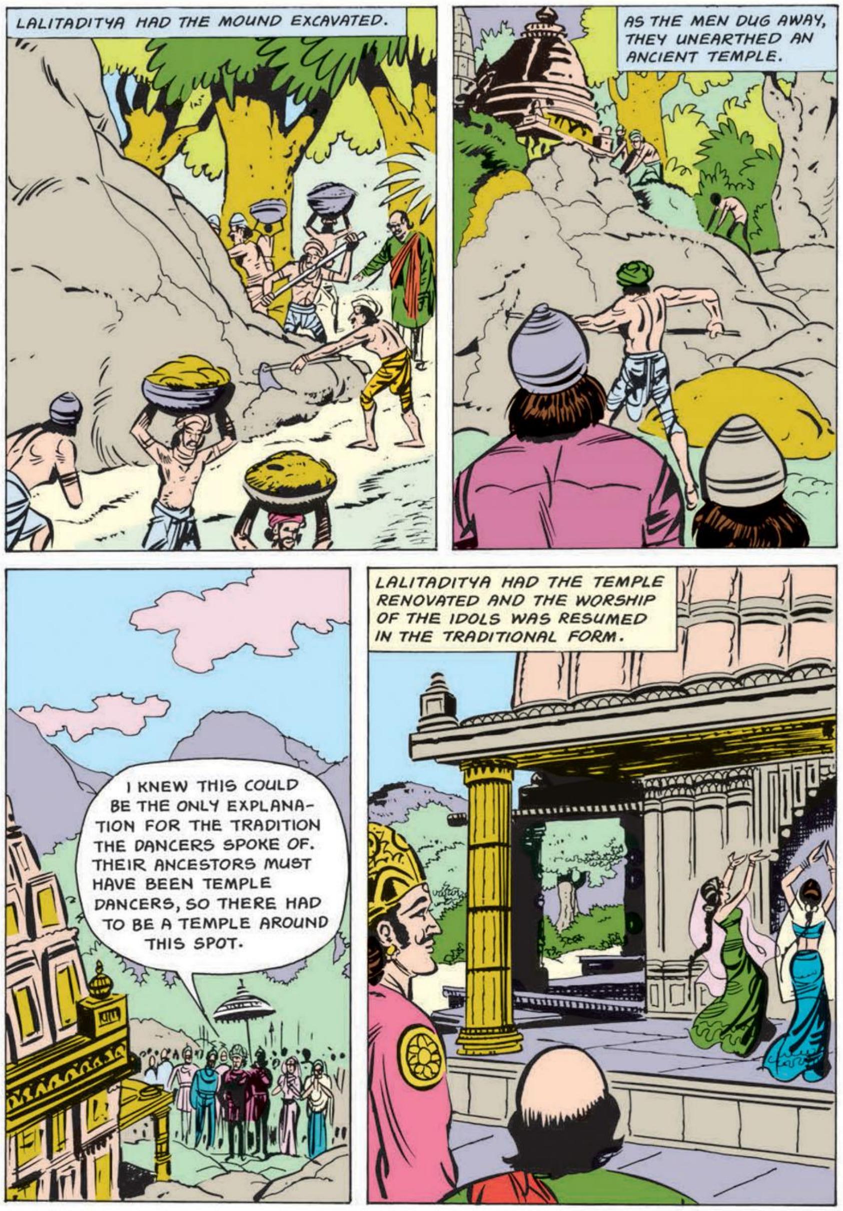
* PUNJAB

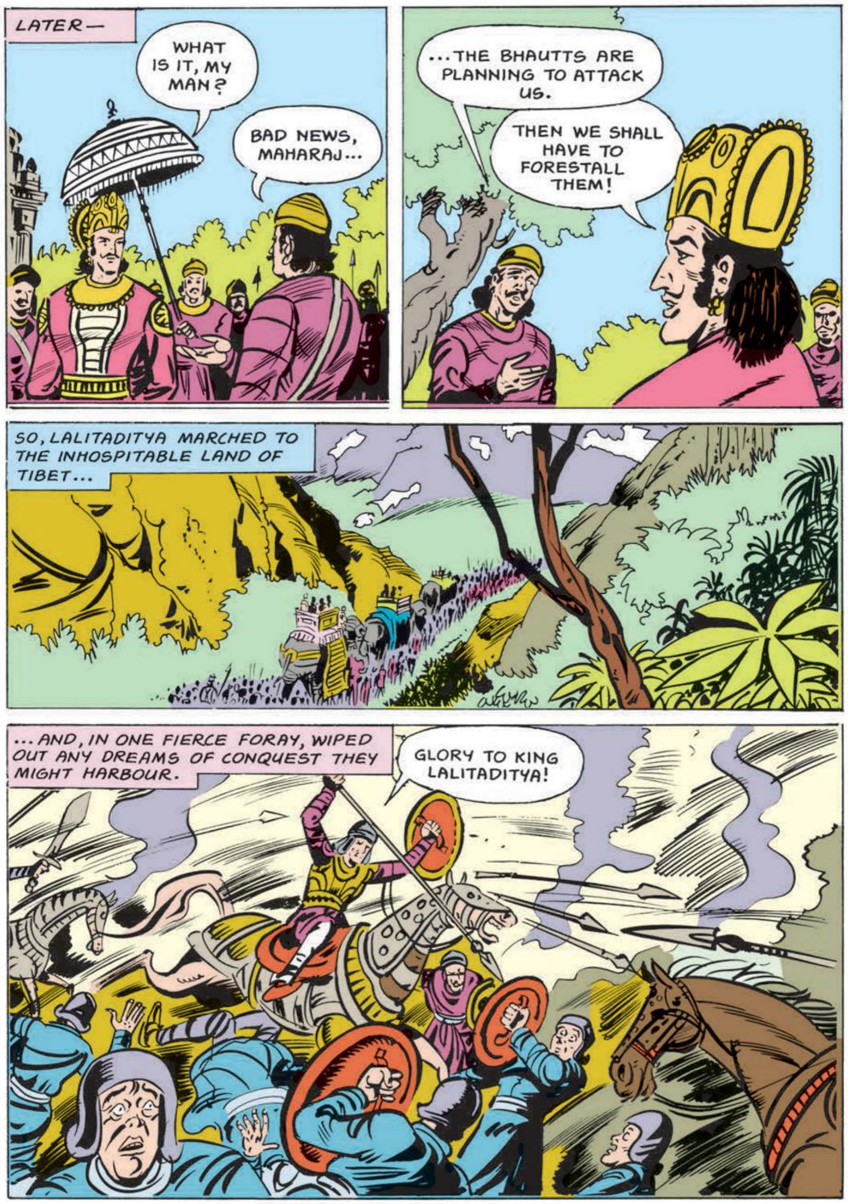

I WAS RIGHT. THE ARMY CAN CROSS AT THIS POINT.
AFTER CAREFULLY TESTING THE NARROW SHALLOW STRETCH, CHANKUN LED THE ARMY ACROSS THE RIVER.
TAKEN BY SURPRISE, THE RAJA OFFERED NO RESISTANCE WHATSOEVER.
HAVING FULFILLED HIS DREAM WITH THE MINIMUM OF BLOODSHED, LALITADITYA RETURNED TO KASHMIR. BUT IN KASHMIR —
THOSE FARMERS LOOK ILL-FED, CHANKUN.

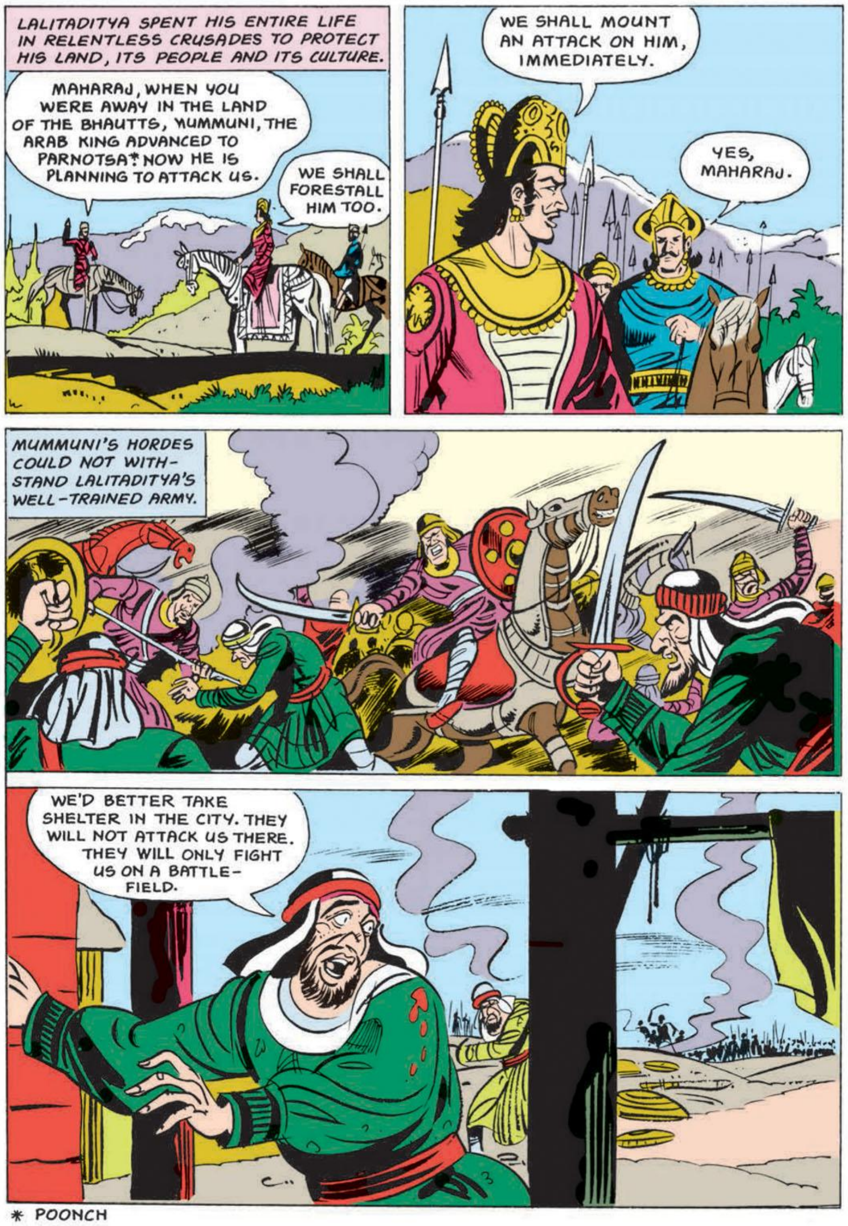

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO THE CITY TO WORK AS LABOURERS, MAHARAJ. THE RAINS FAILED AND OUR CROPS PERISHED FOR WANT OF WATER.
WHY DON'T THE FARMERS IRRIGATE THEIR FIELDS WITH THE WATERS OF OUR RIVERS. THEY NEVER GO DRY.
BUT THE FIELDS LIE ON A HIGHER LEVEL, MAHARAJ.
CAN'T THE WATER BE TAKEN UP TO THE FIELDS?
THERE ARE DEVICES FOR THAT, MAHARAJ. I HAVE SEEN THEM IN OTHER LANDS. BUT...
...THEY ARE FAR BEYOND THE MEANS OF OUR FARMERS.
BUT NOT OF THE STATE, SURELY! LET MONEY FROM THE STATE COFFERS BE USED FOR THE SCHEME.
THE DEVICES CHANKUN HAD IN MIND WERE ARAGHATS* BUILT ON RIVER BANKS TO LIFT WATER TO THE FIELDS.
OUR EMPEROR HAS FORESIGHT AND A FINE SENSE OF PRIORITIES. OUR FARMERS NEED NO LONGER FLOCK TO THE CITIES TO LIVE AND WORK IN INHUMAN CONDITIONS.

* PERSIAN WHEELS

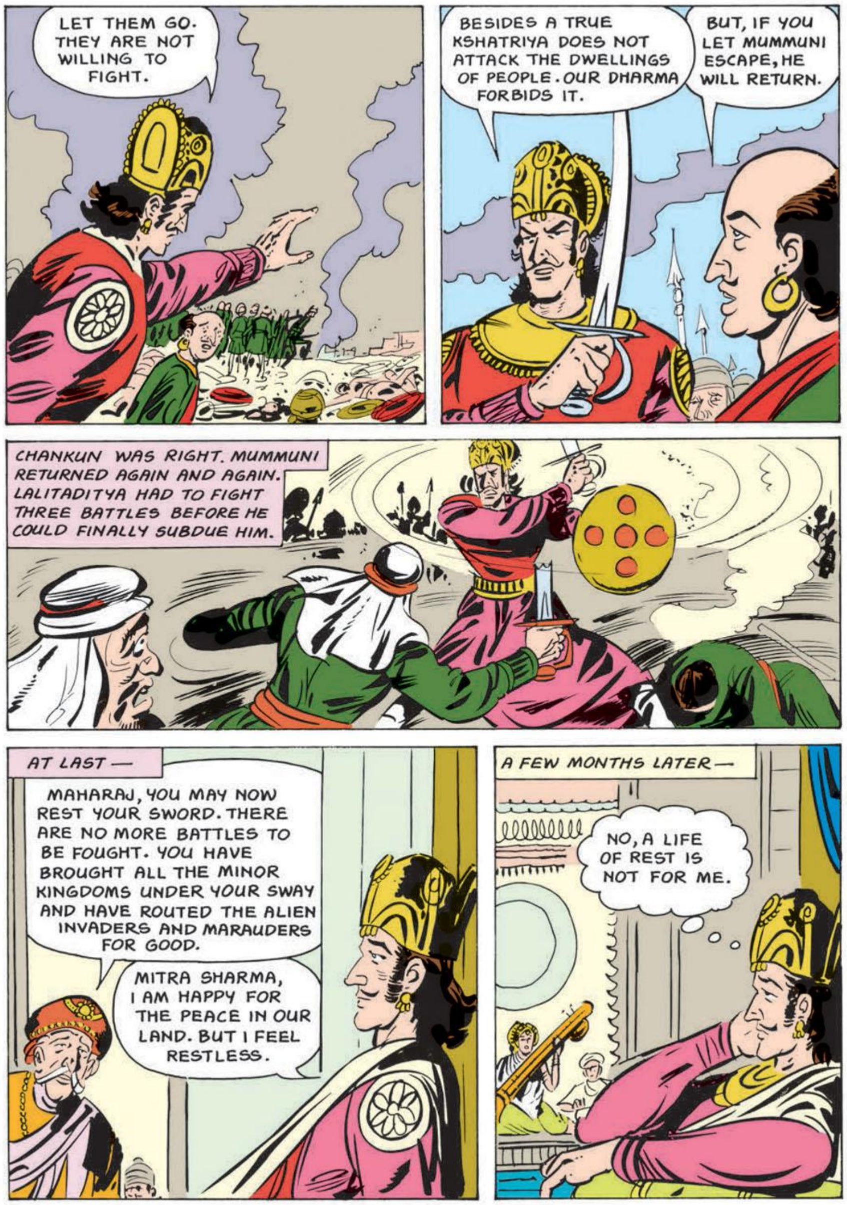

NOR DID THEY HAVE TO BOW TO THE WHIMS OF NATURE.
WHAT A FINE CROP! AGRICULTURE IS THE MAINSTAY OF A COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, AND THE TILLERS OF THE SOIL, ITS MOST PRECIOUS SUBJECTS.
I HEARTILY AGREE, MAHARAJ.
ONCE, WHILE LALITADITYA AND CHANKUN WERE RIDING THROUGH A FOREST —
?
WHO ARE YOU, FAIR MAIDENS? WHY DO YOU DANCE HERE?
WE ARE SISTERS, MAHARAJ.
WE DO NOT KNOW WHY, BUT FOR GENERATIONS IT HAS BEEN A RELIGIOUS TRADITION IN OUR FAMILY TO DANCE AT THIS SPOT.
THE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY PROBABLY LIES BURIED UNDER THAT MOUND.

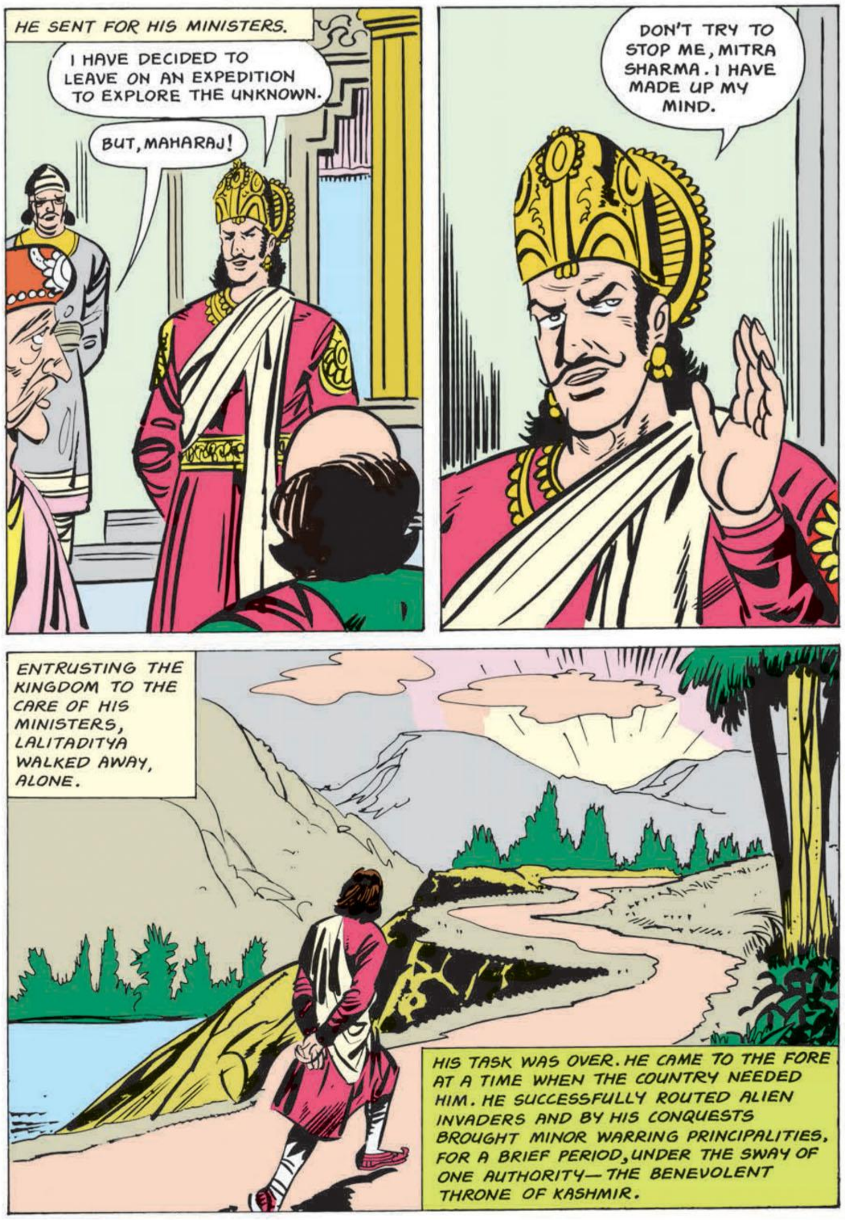

LALITADITYA HAD THE MOUND EXCAVATED.
AS THE MEN DUG AWAY, THEY UNEARTHED AN ANCIENT TEMPLE.
I KNEW THIS COULD BE THE ONLY EXPLANATION FOR THE TRADITION THE DANCERS SPOKE OF. THEIR ANCESTORS MUST HAVE BEEN TEMPLE DANCERS, SO THERE HAD TO BE A TEMPLE AROUND THIS SPOT.
LALITADITYA HAD THE TEMPLE RENOVATED AND THE WORSHIP OF THE IDOLS WAS RESUMED IN THE TRADITIONAL FORM.

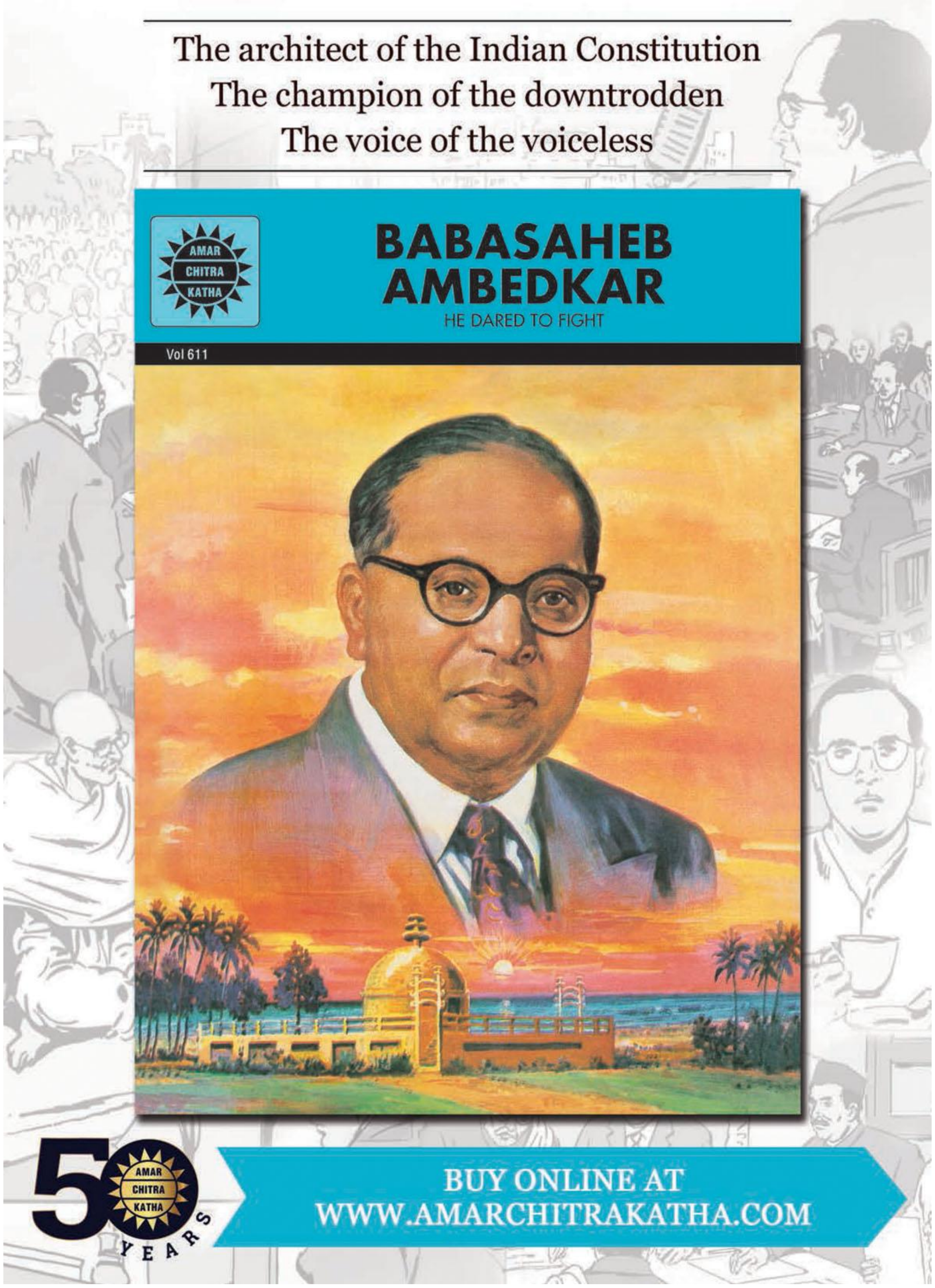

LATER—
WHAT IS IT, MY MAN?
BAD NEWS, MAHARAJ...
...THE BHAUTTS ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK US.
THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO FORESTALL THEM!
SO, LALITADITYA MARCHED TO THE INHOSPITABLE LAND OF TIBET...
...AND, IN ONE FIERCE FORAY, WIPED OUT ANY DREAMS OF CONQUEST THEY MIGHT HARBOUR.
GLORY TO KING LALITADITYA!


LALITADITYA SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE IN RELENTLESS CRUSADES TO PROTECT HIS LAND, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS CULTURE.
MAHARAJ, WHEN YOU WERE AWAY IN THE LAND OF THE BHAUTTS, MUMMUNI, THE ARAB KING ADVANCED TO PARNOTSA*. NOW HE IS PLANNING TO ATTACK US.
WE SHALL FORESTALL HIM TOO.
WE SHALL MOUNT AN ATTACK ON HIM, IMMEDIATELY.
YES, MAHARAJ.
MUMMUNI'S HORDES COULD NOT WITHSTAND LALITADITYA'S WELL-TRAINED ARMY.
WE'D BETTER TAKE SHELTER IN THE CITY. THEY WILL NOT ATTACK US THERE. THEY WILL ONLY FIGHT US ON A BATTLEFIELD.

* POONCH


LET THEM GO. THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO FIGHT.
BESIDES A TRUE KSHATRIYA DOES NOT ATTACK THE DWELLINGS OF PEOPLE. OUR DHARMA FORBIDS IT.
BUT, IF YOU LET MUMMUNI ESCAPE, HE WILL RETURN.
CHANKUN WAS RIGHT. MUMMUNI RETURNED AGAIN AND AGAIN. LALITADITYA HAD TO FIGHT THREE BATTLES BEFORE HE COULD FINALLY SUBDUE HIM.
AT LAST —
MAHARAJ, YOU MAY NOW REST YOUR SWORD. THERE ARE NO MORE BATTLES TO BE FOUGHT. YOU HAVE BROUGHT ALL THE MINOR KINGDOMS UNDER YOUR SWAY AND HAVE ROUTED THE ALIEN INVADERS AND MARAUDERS FOR GOOD.
MITRA SHARMA, I AM HAPPY FOR THE PEACE IN OUR LAND. BUT I FEEL RESTLESS.
A FEW MONTHS LATER —
NO, A LIFE OF REST IS NOT FOR ME.


HE SENT FOR HIS MINISTERS.
I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE ON AN EXPEDITION TO EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN.
BUT, MAHARAJ!
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, MITRA SHARMA. I HAVE MADE UP MY MIND.
ENTRUSTING THE KINGDOM TO THE CARE OF HIS MINISTERS, LALITADITYA WALKED AWAY, ALONE.
HIS TASK WAS OVER. HE CAME TO THE FORE AT A TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY NEEDED HIM. HE SUCCESSFULLY ROUTED ALIEN INVADERS AND BY HIS CONQUESTS BROUGHT MINOR WARRING PRINCIPALITIES, FOR A BRIEF PERIOD, UNDER THE SWAY OF ONE AUTHORITY— THE BENEVOLENT THRONE OF KASHMIR.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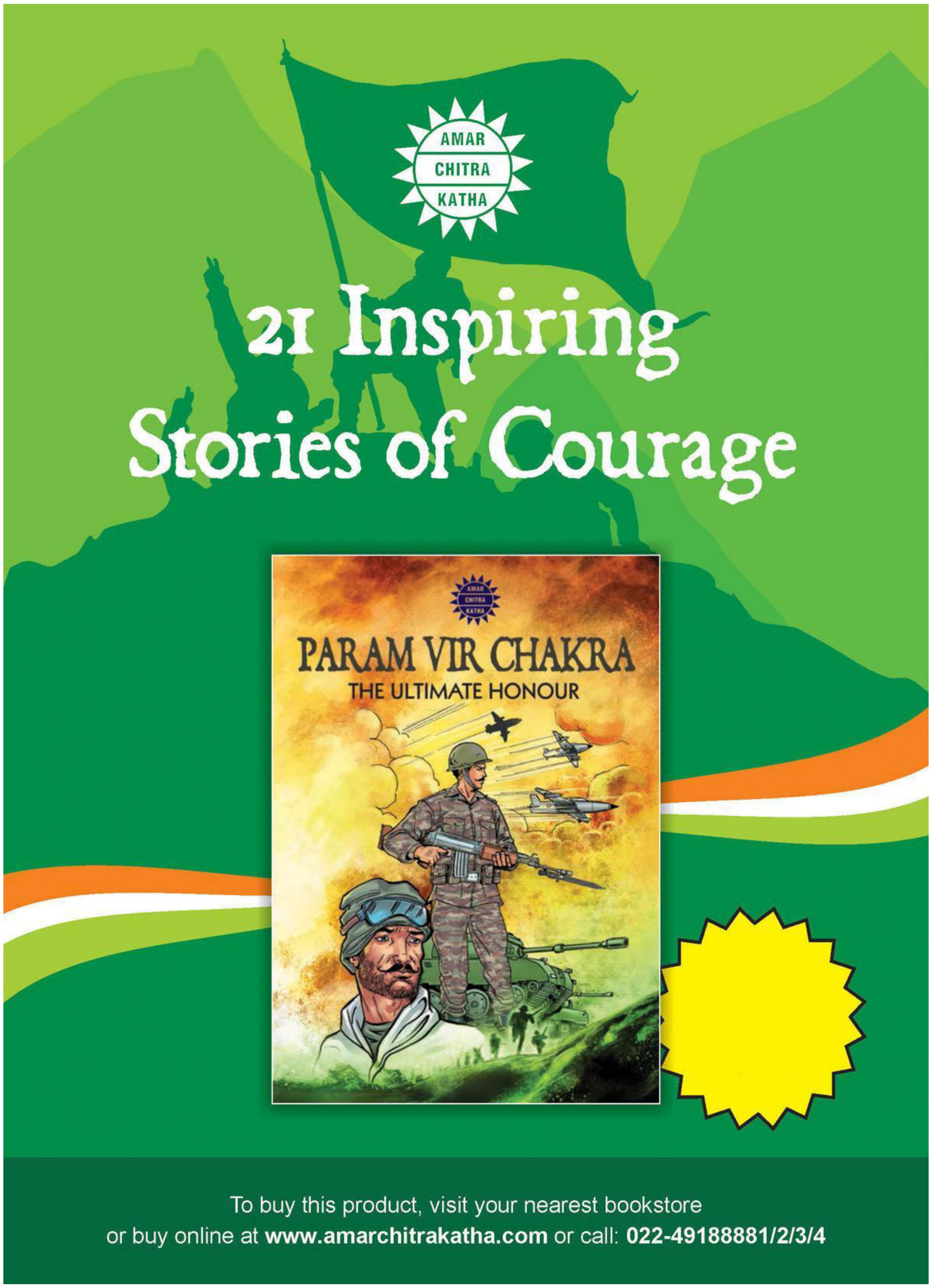

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

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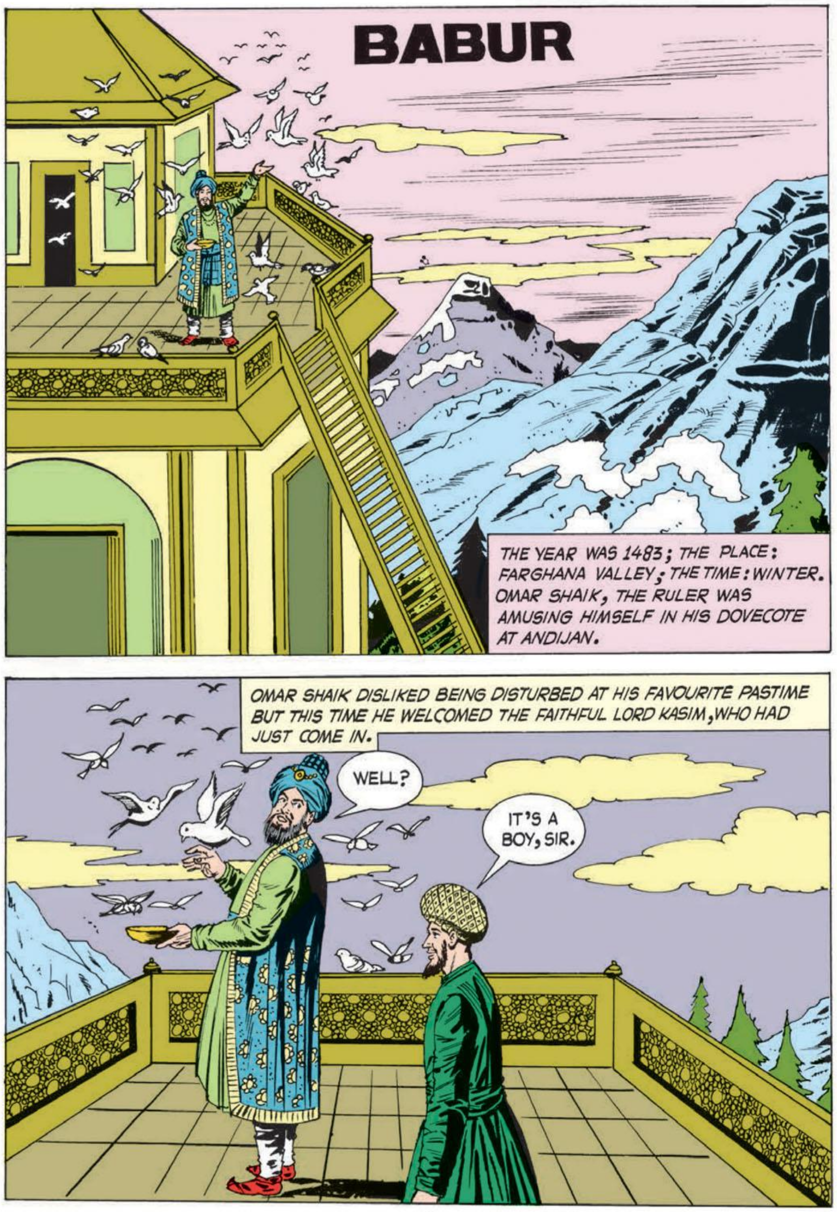
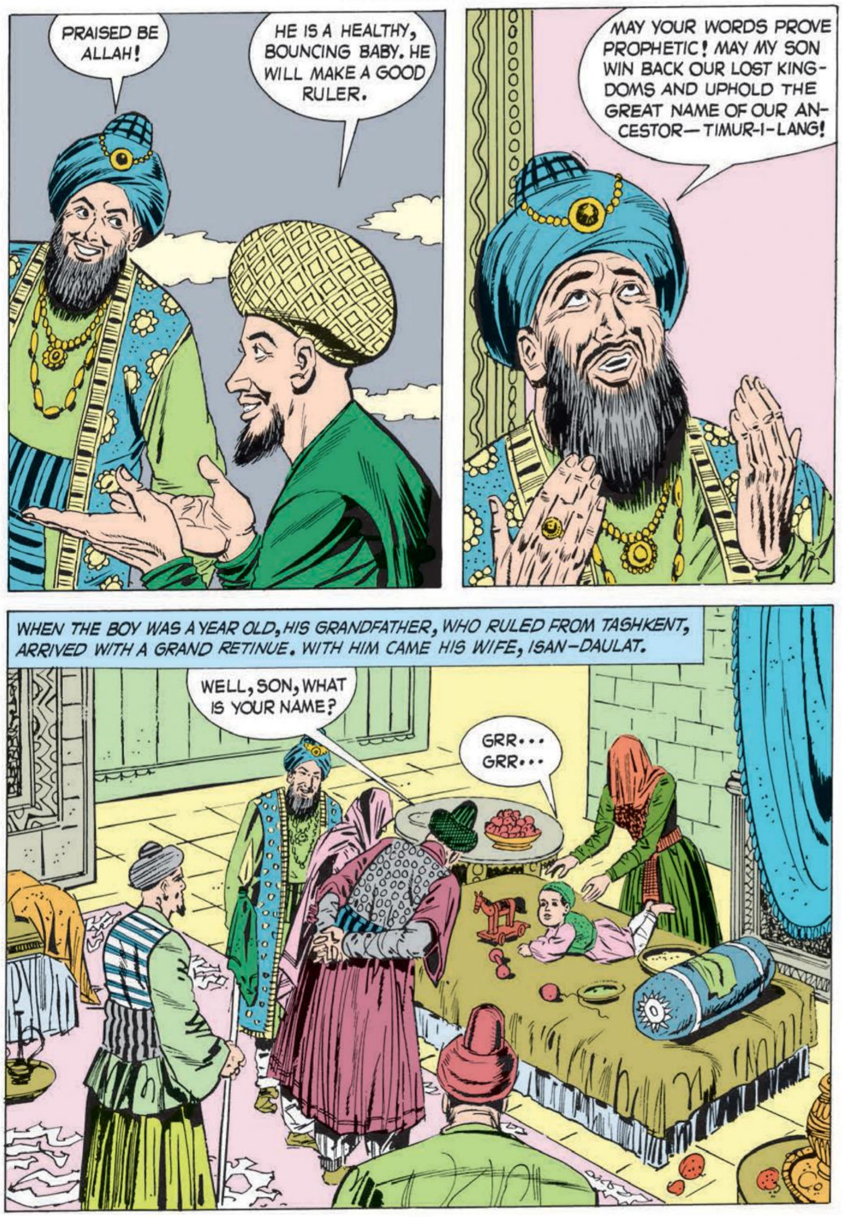
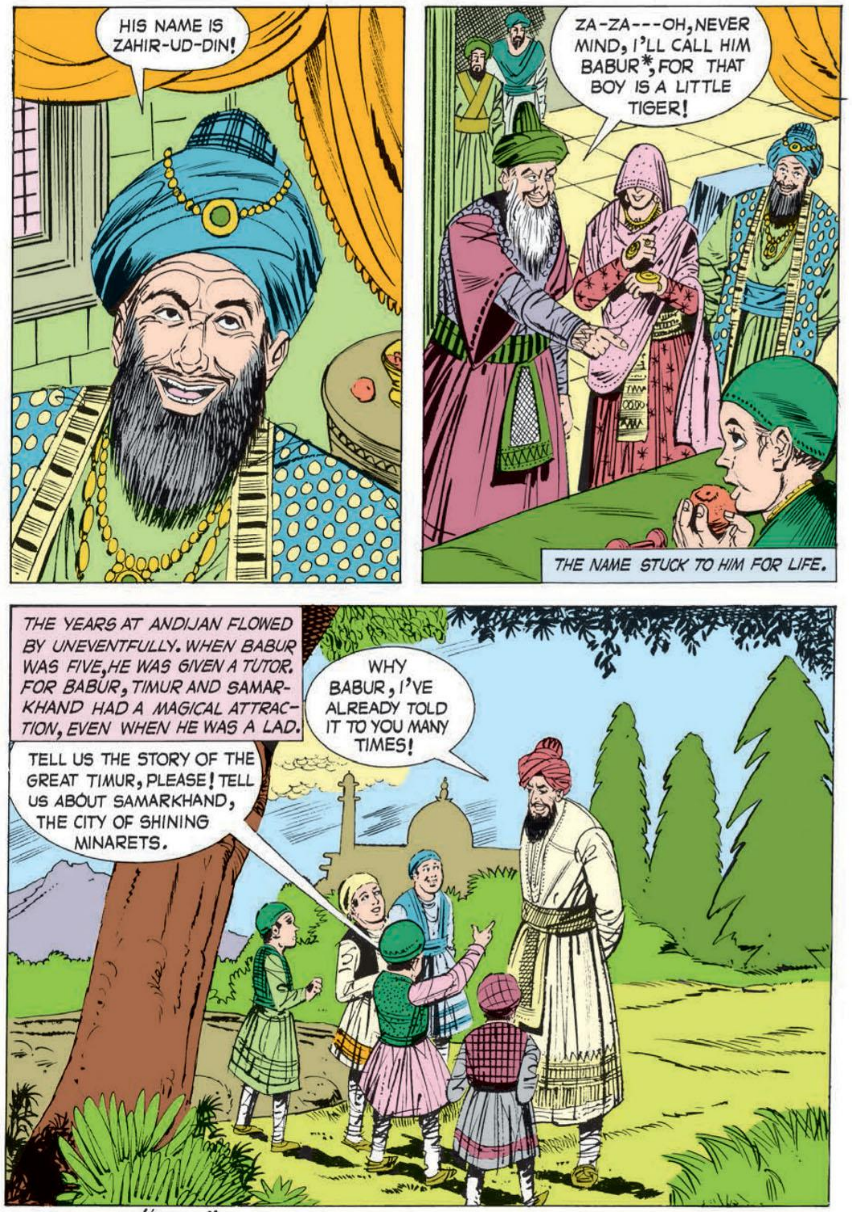
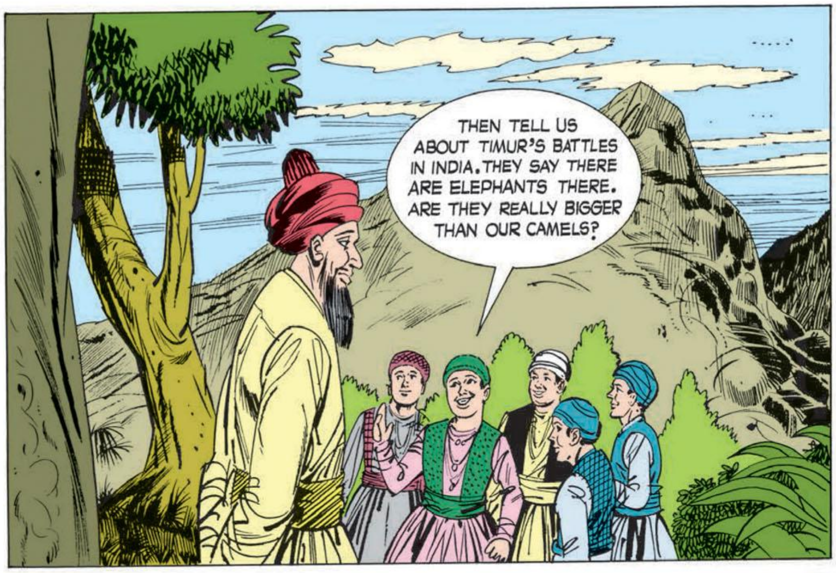
# BABUR

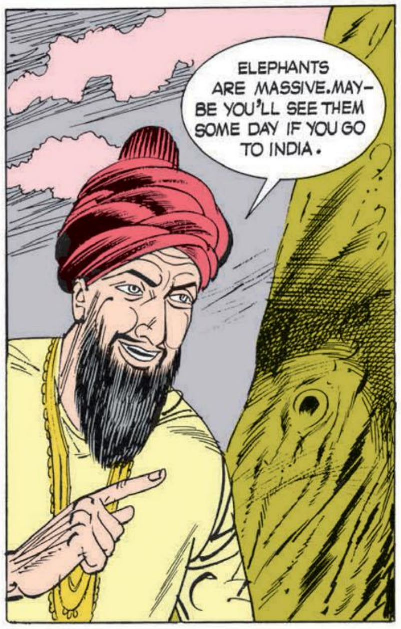

THE YEAR WAS 1483; THE PLACE: FARGHANA VALLEY; THE TIME: WINTER. OMAR SHAIK, THE RULER WAS AMUSING HIMSELF IN HIS DOVECOTE AT ANDIJAN.
OMAR SHAIK DISLIKED BEING DISTURBED AT HIS FAVOURITE PASTIME BUT THIS TIME HE WELCOMED THE FAITHFUL LORD KASIM, WHO HAD JUST COME IN.
WELL?
IT'S A BOY, SIR.


PRAISED BE ALLAH!
HE IS A HEALTHY, BOUNCING BABY. HE WILL MAKE A GOOD RULER.
MAY YOUR WORDS PROVE PROPHETIC! MAY MY SON WIN BACK OUR LOST KINGDOMS AND UPHOLD THE GREAT NAME OF OUR ANCESTOR—TIMUR-I-LANG!
WHEN THE BOY WAS A YEAR OLD, HIS GRANDFATHER, WHO RULED FROM TASHKENT, ARRIVED WITH A GRAND RETINUE. WITH HIM CAME HIS WIFE, ISAN-DAULAT.
WELL, SON, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
GRR... GRR...

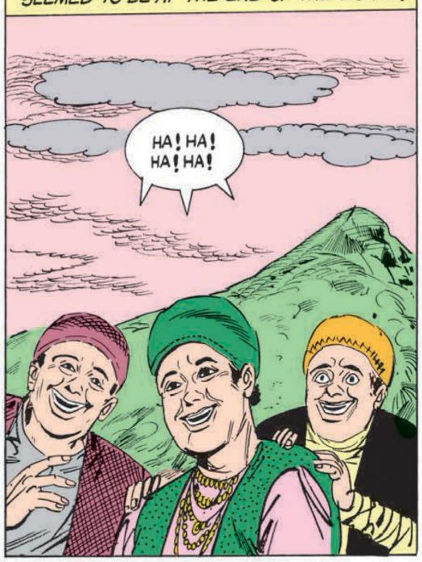

HIS NAME IS ZAHIR-UD-DIN!
ZA-ZA---OH, NEVER MIND, I'LL CALL HIM BABUR*, FOR THAT BOY IS A LITTLE TIGER!
THE NAME STUCK TO HIM FOR LIFE.
THE YEARS AT ANDIJAN FLOWED BY UNEVENTFULLY. WHEN BABUR WAS FIVE, HE WAS GIVEN A TUTOR. FOR BABUR, TIMUR AND SAMARKHAND HAD A MAGICAL ATTRACTION, EVEN WHEN HE WAS A LAD.
WHY BABUR, I'VE ALREADY TOLD IT TO YOU MANY TIMES!
TELL US THE STORY OF THE GREAT TIMUR, PLEASE! TELL US ABOUT SAMARKHAND, THE CITY OF SHINING MINARETS.

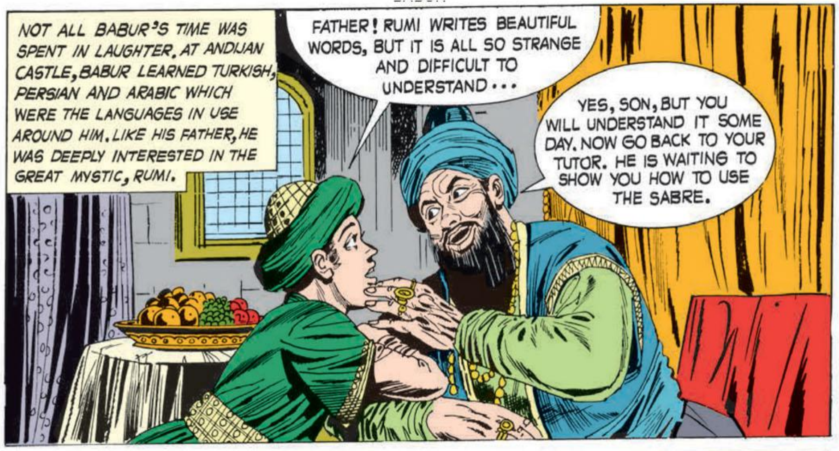
* BABUR MEANS "TIGER"

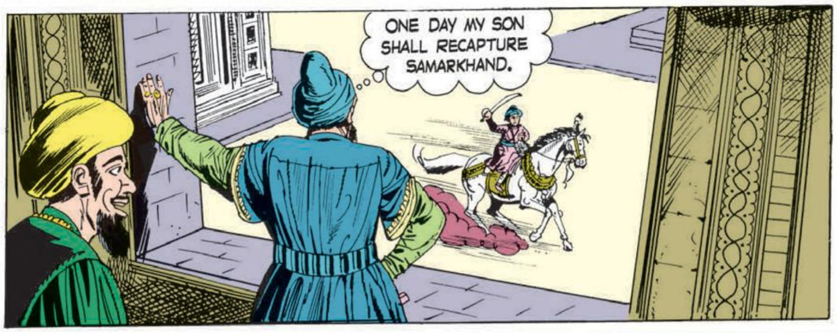

THEN TELL US ABOUT TIMUR'S BATTLES IN INDIA. THEY SAY THERE ARE ELEPHANTS THERE. ARE THEY REALLY BIGGER THAN OUR CAMELS?

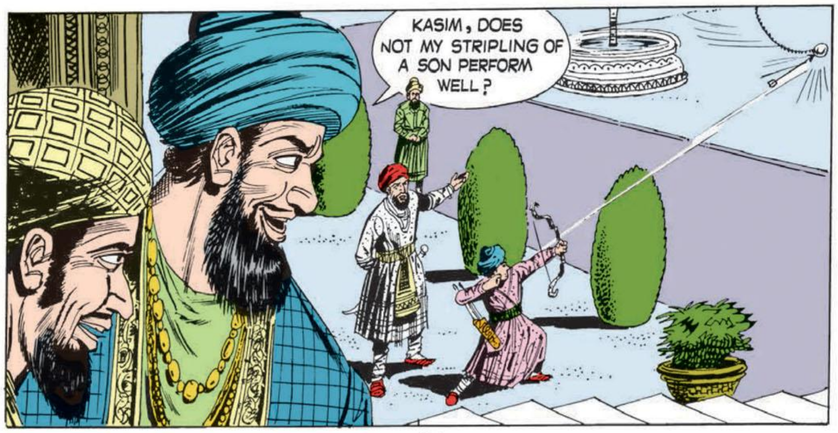

ELEPHANTS ARE MASSIVE. MAYBE YOU'LL SEE THEM SOME DAY IF YOU GO TO INDIA.

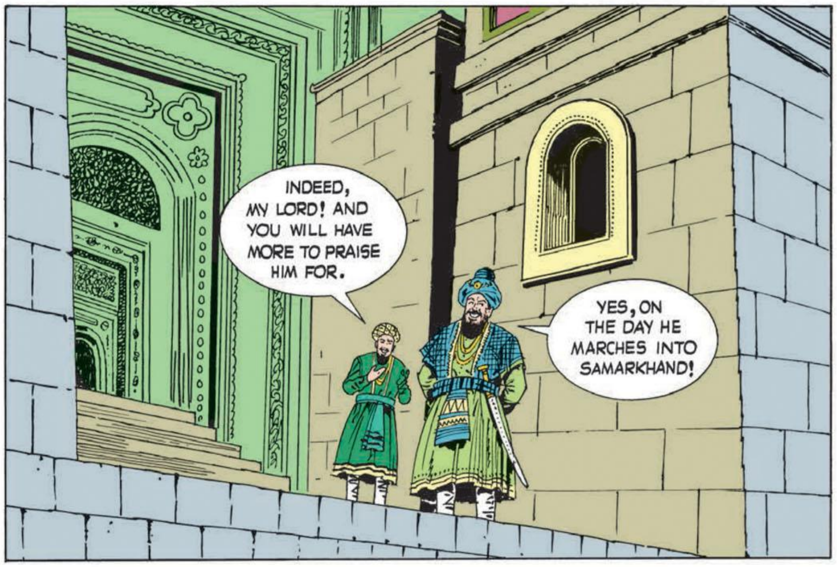
*THE CHILDREN WERE AMUSED AT THAT. TO THEM, IN THEIR MOUNTAIN FASTNESS, INDIA SEEMED TO BE AT THE END OF THE WORLD!*

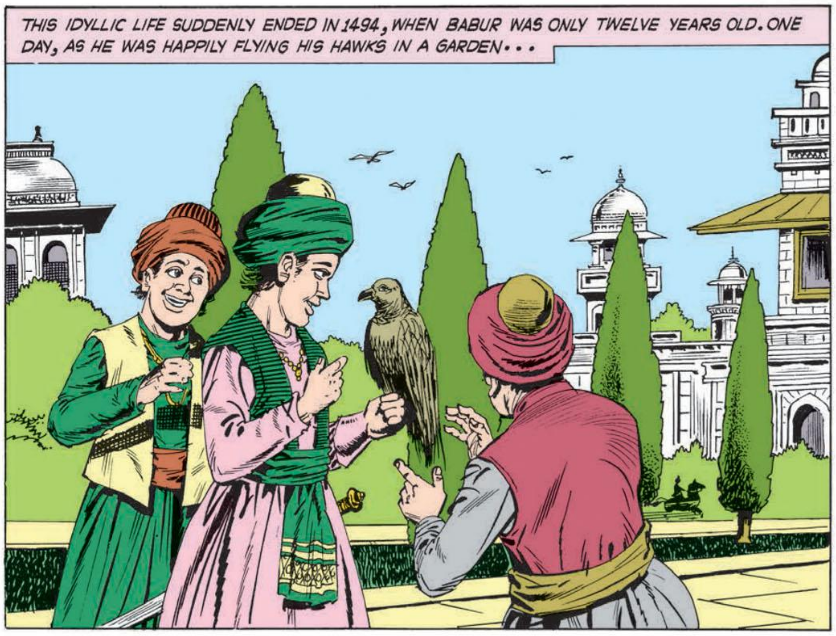


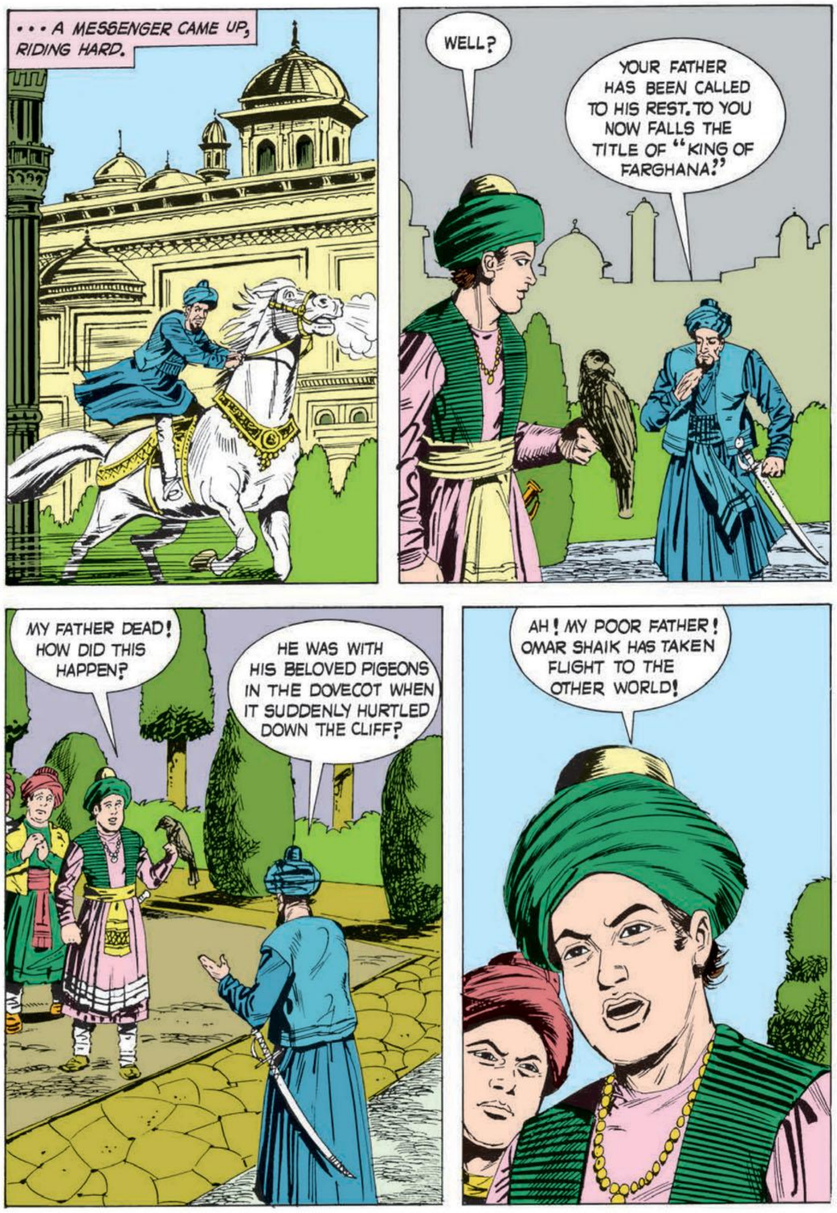

NOT ALL BABUR'S TIME WAS SPENT IN LAUGHTER. AT ANDIJAN CASTLE, BABUR LEARNED TURKISH, PERSIAN AND ARABIC WHICH WERE THE LANGUAGES IN USE AROUND HIM. LIKE HIS FATHER, HE WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE GREAT MYSTIC, RUMI.
FATHER! RUMI WRITES BEAUTIFUL WORDS, BUT IT IS ALL SO STRANGE AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND . . .
YES, SON, BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IT SOME DAY. NOW GO BACK TO YOUR TUTOR. HE IS WAITING TO SHOW YOU HOW TO USE THE SABRE.

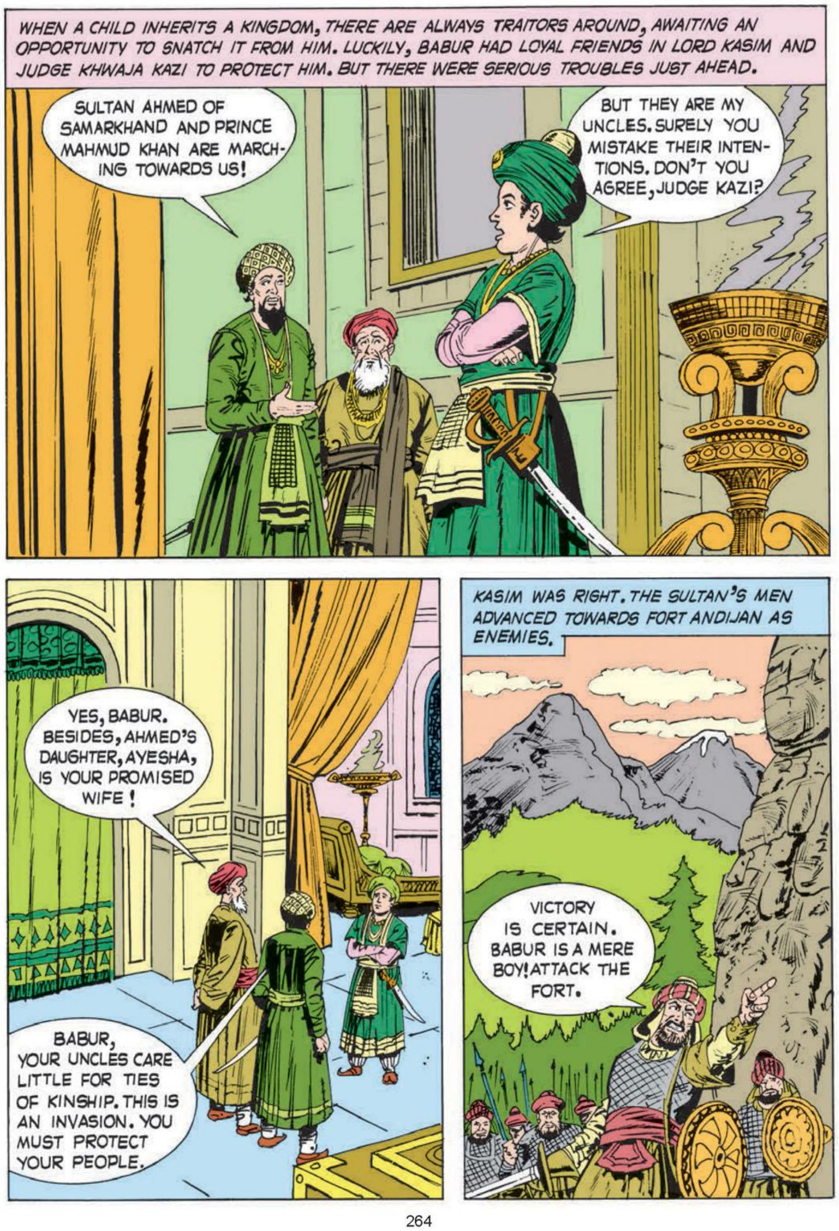

ONE DAY MY SON SHALL RECAPTURE SAMARKHAND.

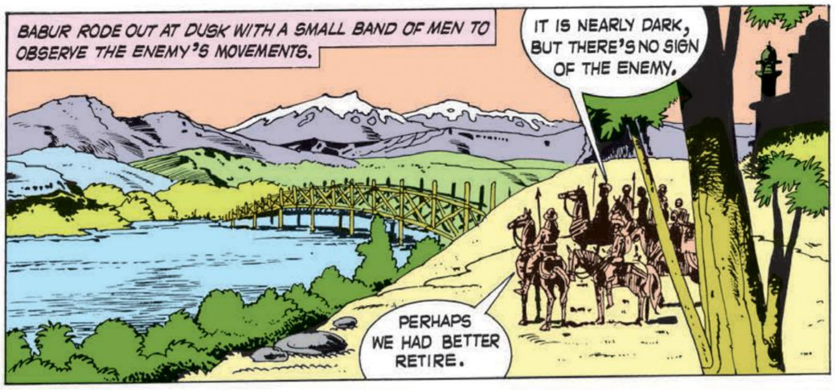

KASIM, DOES NOT MY STRIPLING OF A SON PERFORM WELL?

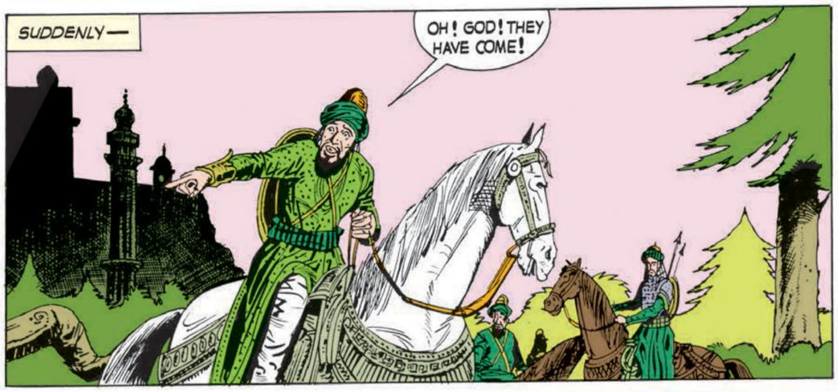

INDEED, MY LORD! AND YOU WILL HAVE MORE TO PRAISE HIM FOR.
YES, ON THE DAY HE MARCHES INTO SAMARKHAND!

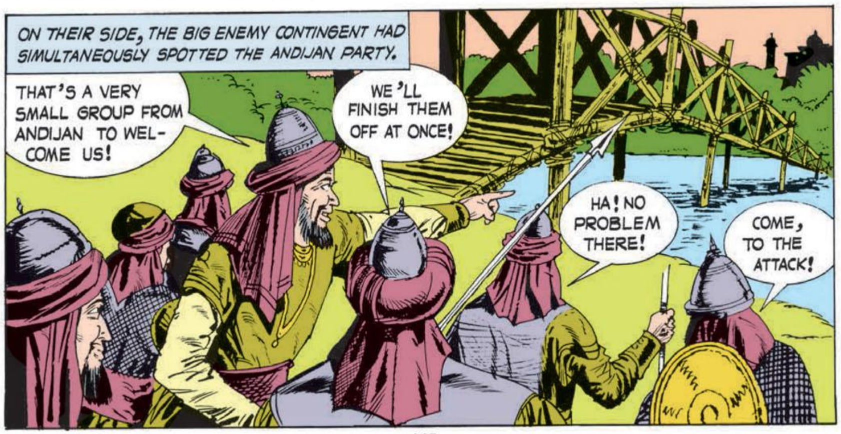

THIS IDYLLIC LIFE SUDDENLY ENDED IN 1494, WHEN BABUR WAS ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD. ONE DAY, AS HE WAS HAPPILY FLYING HIS HAWKS IN A GARDEN...

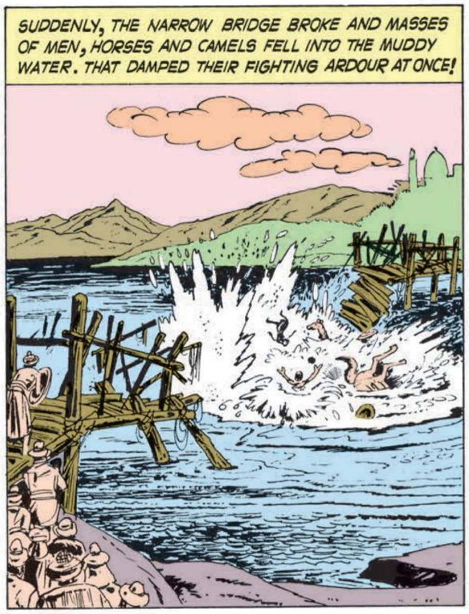

• • • A MESSENGER CAME UP, RIDING HARD.
WELL?
YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN CALLED TO HIS REST. TO YOU NOW FALLS THE TITLE OF "KING OF FARGHANA."
MY FATHER DEAD! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
HE WAS WITH HIS BELOVED PIGEONS IN THE DOVECOT WHEN IT SUDDENLY HURTLED DOWN THE CLIFF?
AH! MY POOR FATHER! OMAR SHAIK HAS TAKEN FLIGHT TO THE OTHER WORLD!

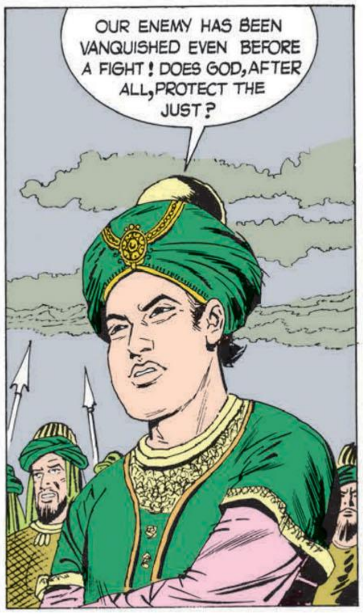

WHEN A CHILD INHERITS A KINGDOM, THERE ARE ALWAYS TRAITORS AROUND, AWAITING AN OPPORTUNITY TO SNATCH IT FROM HIM. LUCKILY, BABUR HAD LOYAL FRIENDS IN LORD KASIM AND JUDGE KHWAJA KAZI TO PROTECT HIM. BUT THERE WERE SERIOUS TROUBLES JUST AHEAD.
SULTAN AHMED OF SAMARKHAND AND PRINCE MAHMUD KHAN ARE MARCHING TOWARDS US!
BUT THEY ARE MY UNCLES. SURELY YOU MISTAKE THEIR INTENTIONS. DON'T YOU AGREE, JUDGE KAZI?
YES, BABUR. BESIDES, AHMED'S DAUGHTER, AYESHA, IS YOUR PROMISED WIFE!
BABUR, YOUR UNCLES CARE LITTLE FOR TIES OF KINSHIP. THIS IS AN INVASION. YOU MUST PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE.
KASIM WAS RIGHT. THE SULTAN'S MEN ADVANCED TOWARDS FORT ANDIJAN AS ENEMIES.
VICTORY IS CERTAIN. BABUR IS A MERE BOY! ATTACK THE FORT.

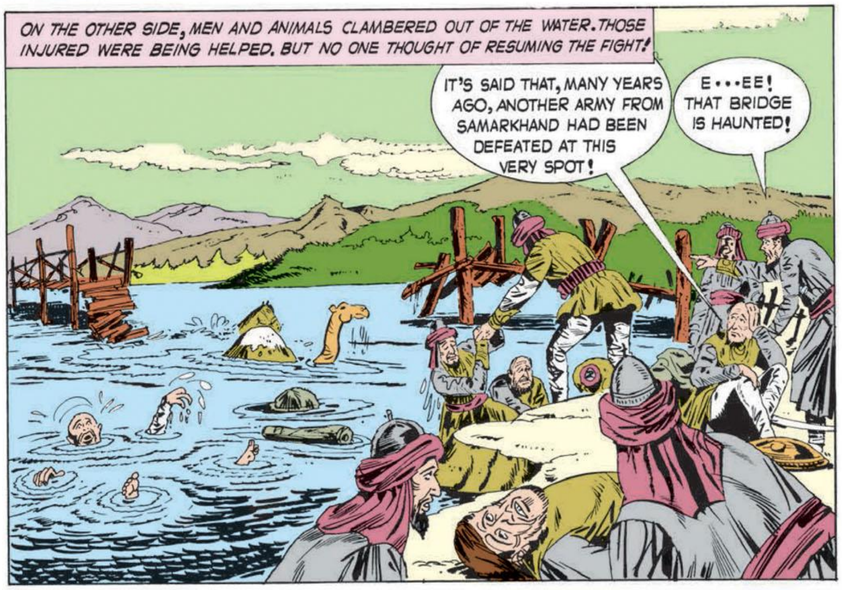

BABUR RODE OUT AT DUSK WITH A SMALL BAND OF MEN TO OBSERVE THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS.
IT IS NEARLY DARK, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE ENEMY.
PERHAPS WE HAD BETTER RETIRE.

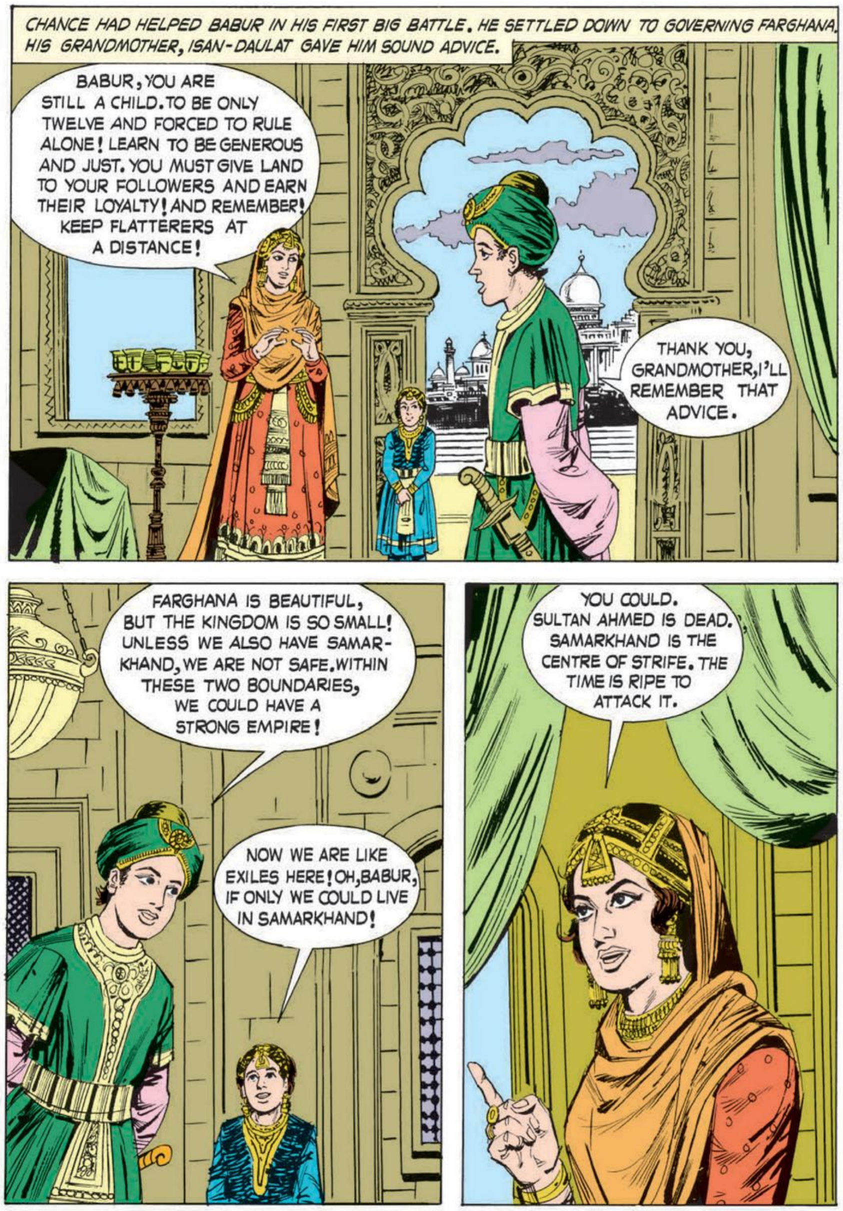

SUDDENLY—
OH! GOD! THEY HAVE COME!

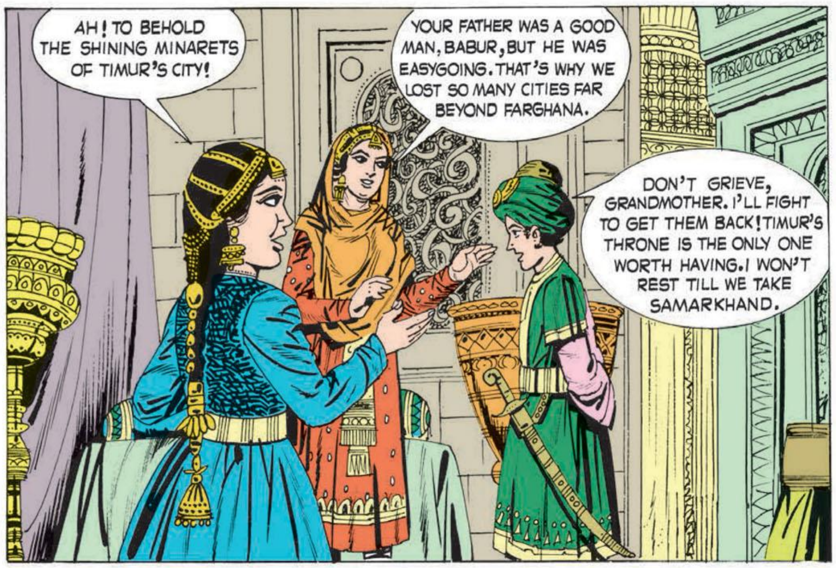

ON THEIR SIDE, THE BIG ENEMY CONTINGENT HAD SIMULTANEOUSLY SPOTTED THE ANDIJAN PARTY.
THAT'S A VERY SMALL GROUP FROM ANDIJAN TO WELCOME US!
WE'LL FINISH THEM OFF AT ONCE!
HA! NO PROBLEM THERE!
COME, TO THE ATTACK!

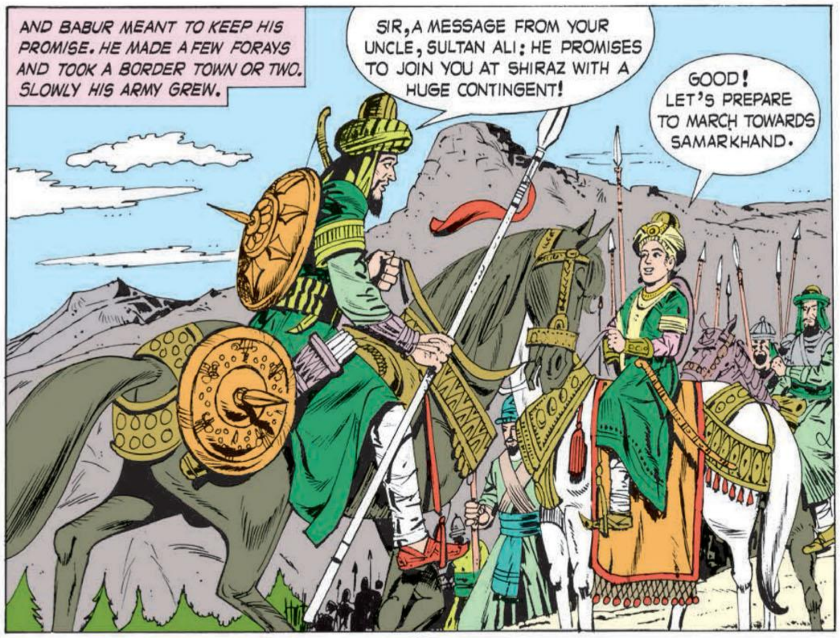

SUDDENLY, THE NARROW BRIDGE BROKE AND MASSES OF MEN, HORSES AND CAMELS FELL INTO THE MUDDY WATER. THAT DAMPED THEIR FIGHTING ARDOUR AT ONCE!

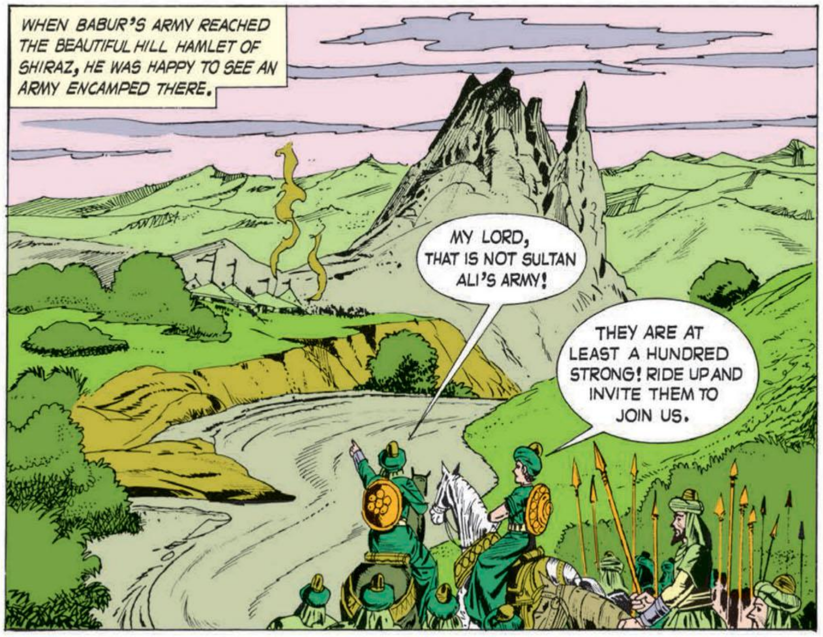

OUR ENEMY HAS BEEN VANQUISHED EVEN BEFORE A FIGHT! DOES GOD, AFTER ALL, PROTECT THE JUST?

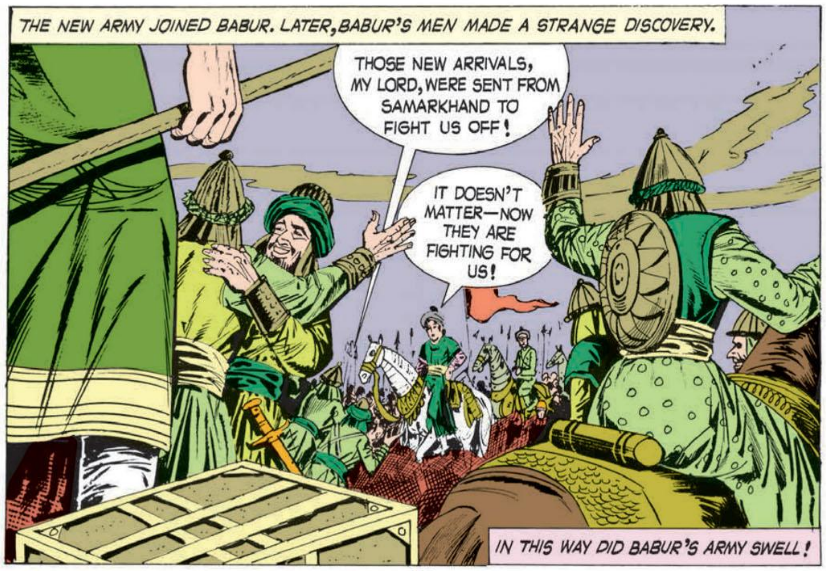

ON THE OTHER SIDE, MEN AND ANIMALS CLAMBERED OUT OF THE WATER. THOSE INJURED WERE BEING HELPED. BUT NO ONE THOUGHT OF RESUMING THE FIGHT!
IT'S SAID THAT, MANY YEARS AGO, ANOTHER ARMY FROM SAMARKHAND HAD BEEN DEFEATED AT THIS VERY SPOT!
E...EE! THAT BRIDGE IS HAUNTED!

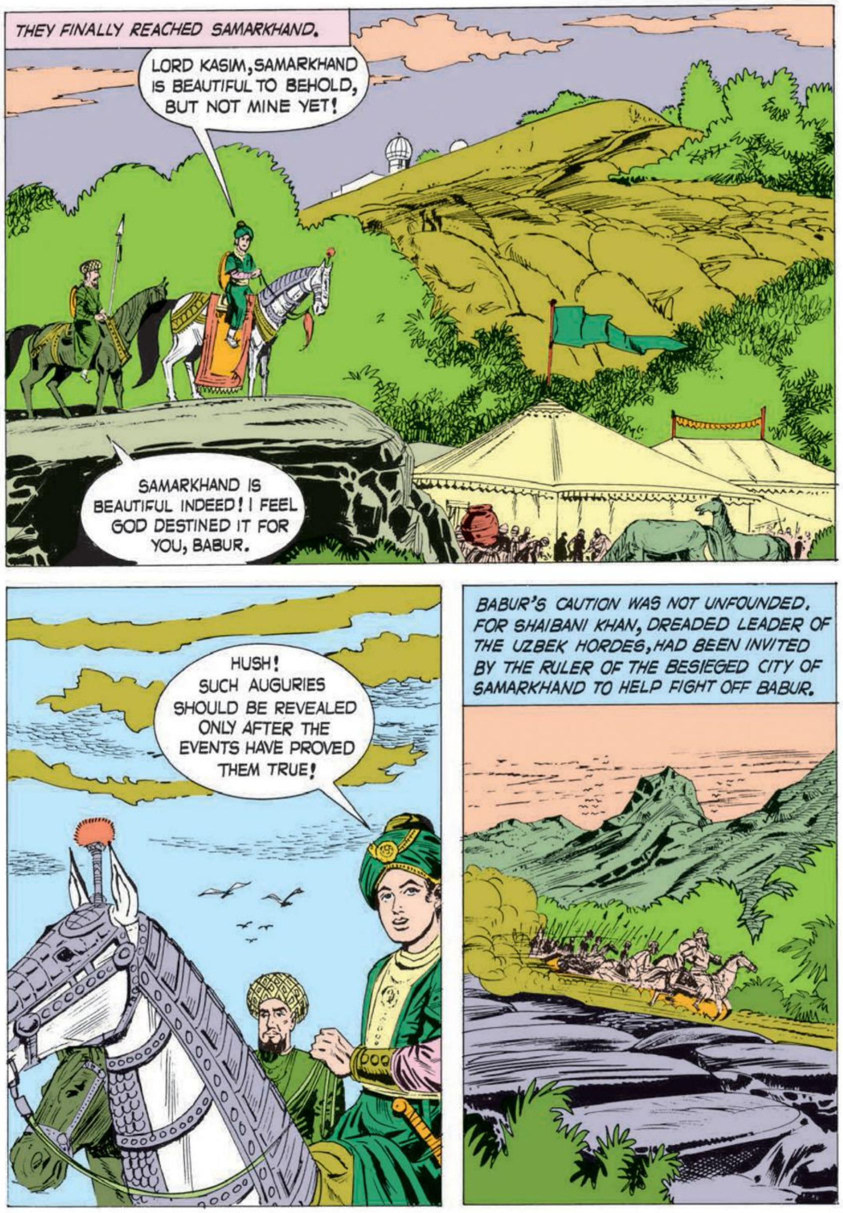

CHANCE HAD HELPED BABUR IN HIS FIRST BIG BATTLE. HE SETTLED DOWN TO GOVERNING FARGHANA. HIS GRANDMOTHER, ISAN-DAULAT GAVE HIM SOUND ADVICE.
BABUR, YOU ARE STILL A CHILD. TO BE ONLY TWELVE AND FORCED TO RULE ALONE! LEARN TO BE GENEROUS AND JUST. YOU MUST GIVE LAND TO YOUR FOLLOWERS AND EARN THEIR LOYALTY! AND REMEMBER! KEEP FLATTERERS AT A DISTANCE!
THANK YOU, GRANDMOTHER, I'LL REMEMBER THAT ADVICE.
FARGHANA IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT THE KINGDOM IS SO SMALL! UNLESS WE ALSO HAVE SAMARKHAND, WE ARE NOT SAFE. WITHIN THESE TWO BOUNDARIES, WE COULD HAVE A STRONG EMPIRE!
NOW WE ARE LIKE EXILES HERE! OH, BABUR, IF ONLY WE COULD LIVE IN SAMARKHAND!
YOU COULD. SULTAN AHMED IS DEAD. SAMARKHAND IS THE CENTRE OF STRIFE. THE TIME IS RIPE TO ATTACK IT.

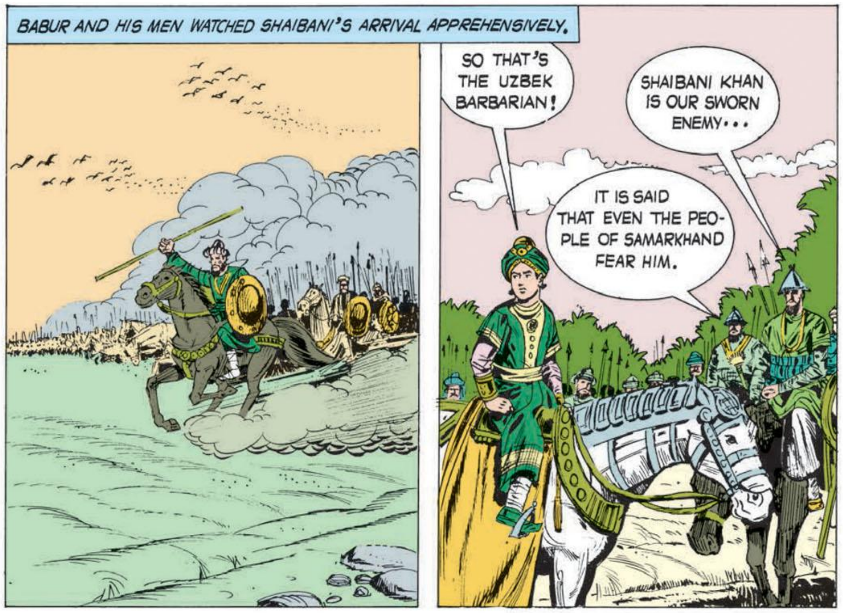

AH! TO BEHOLD THE SHINING MINARETS OF TIMUR'S CITY!
YOUR FATHER WAS A GOOD MAN, BABUR, BUT HE WAS EASYGOING. THAT'S WHY WE LOST SO MANY CITIES FAR BEYOND FARGHANA.
DON'T GRIEVE, GRANDMOTHER. I'LL FIGHT TO GET THEM BACK! TIMUR'S THRONE IS THE ONLY ONE WORTH HAVING. I WON'T REST TILL WE TAKE SAMARKHAND.

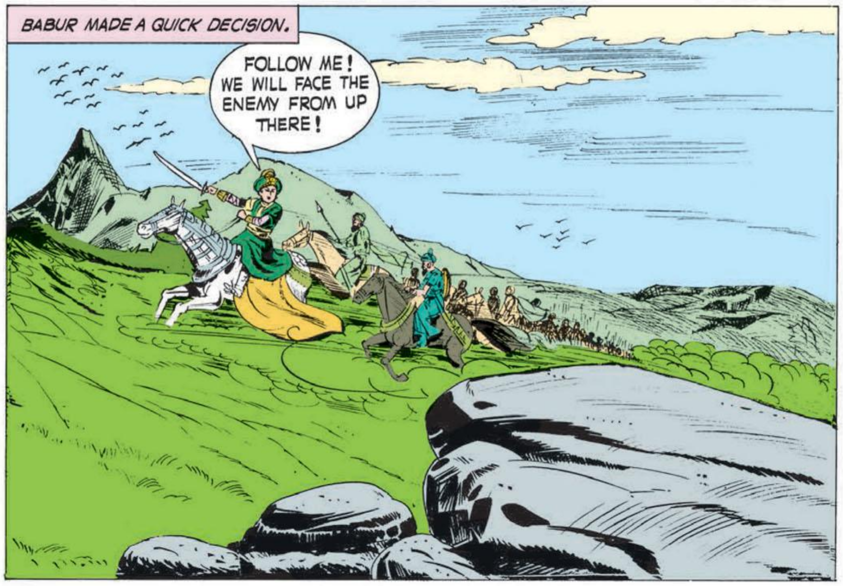

AND BABUR MEANT TO KEEP HIS PROMISE. HE MADE A FEW FORAYS AND TOOK A BORDER TOWN OR TWO. SLOWLY HIS ARMY GREW.
SIR, A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UNCLE, SULTAN ALI: HE PROMISES TO JOIN YOU AT SHIRAZ WITH A HUGE CONTINGENT!
GOOD! LET'S PREPARE TO MARCH TOWARDS SAMARKHAND.

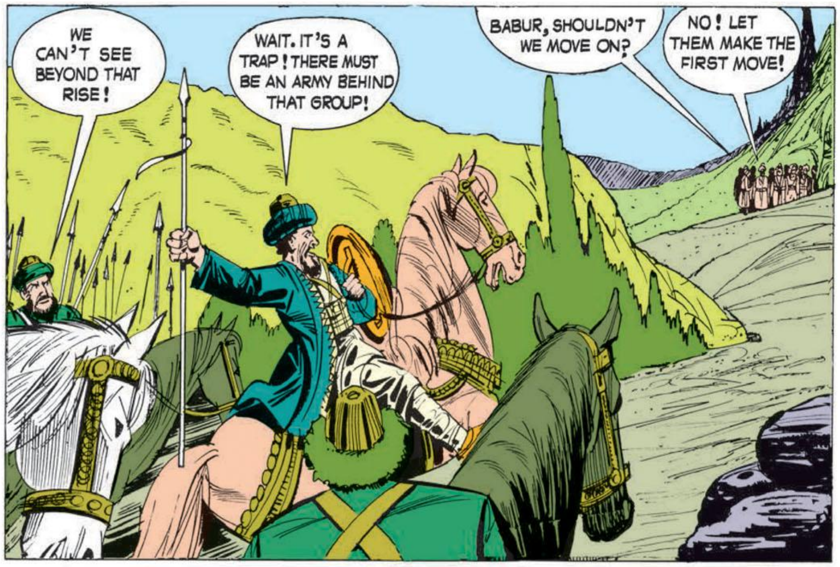

WHEN BABUR'S ARMY REACHED THE BEAUTIFUL HILL HAMLET OF SHIRAZ, HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE AN ARMY ENCAMPED THERE.
MY LORD, THAT IS NOT SULTAN ALI'S ARMY!
THEY ARE AT LEAST A HUNDRED STRONG! RIDE UP AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN US.

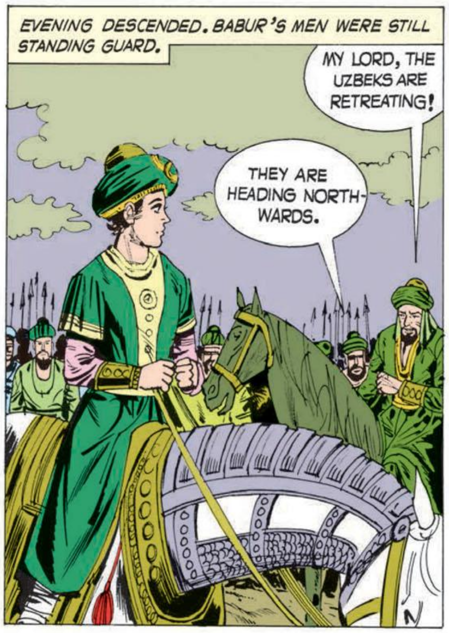

THE NEW ARMY JOINED BABUR. LATER, BABUR'S MEN MADE A STRANGE DISCOVERY.
THOSE NEW ARRIVALS, MY LORD, WERE SENT FROM SAMARKHAND TO FIGHT US OFF!
IT DOESN'T MATTER—NOW THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR US!
IN THIS WAY DID BABUR'S ARMY SWELL!

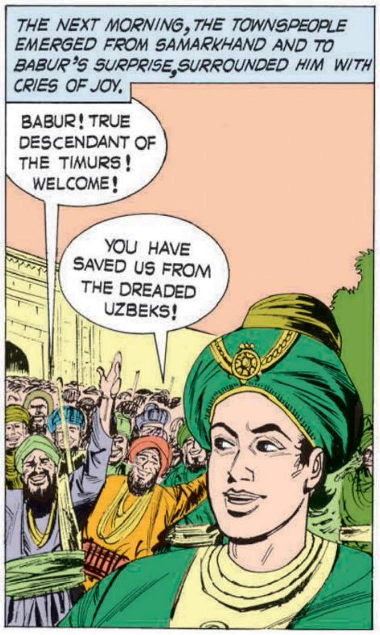

THEY FINALLY REACHED SAMARKHAND.
LORD KASIM, SAMARKHAND IS BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD, BUT NOT MINE YET!
SAMARKHAND IS BEAUTIFUL INDEED! I FEEL GOD DESTINED IT FOR YOU, BABUR.
HUSH! SUCH AUGURIES SHOULD BE REVEALED ONLY AFTER THE EVENTS HAVE PROVED THEM TRUE!
BABUR'S CAUTION WAS NOT UNFOUNDED. FOR SHAIBANI KHAN, DREADED LEADER OF THE UZBEK HORDES, HAD BEEN INVITED BY THE RULER OF THE BESIEGED CITY OF SAMARKHAND TO HELP FIGHT OFF BABUR.

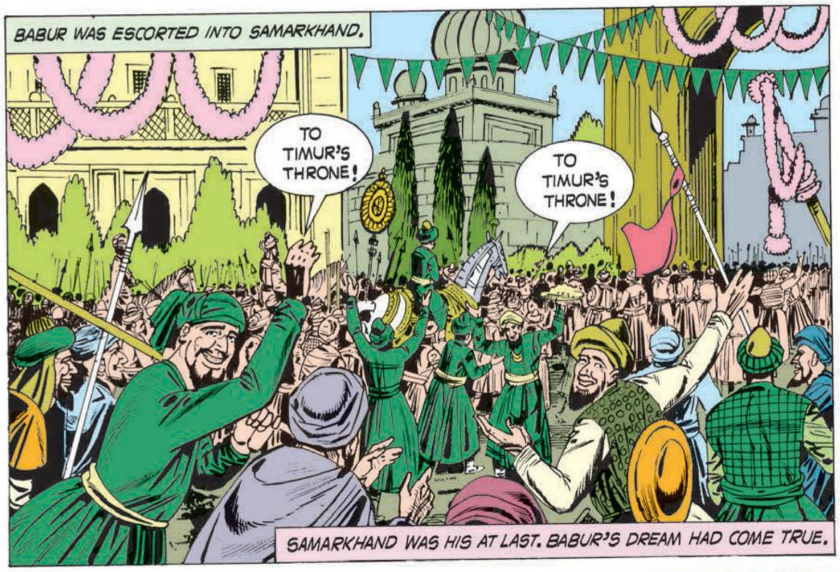

BABUR AND HIS MEN WATCHED SHAIBANI'S ARRIVAL APPREHENSIVELY.
SO THAT'S THE UZBEK BARBARIAN!
SHAIBANI KHAN IS OUR SWORN ENEMY...
IT IS SAID THAT EVEN THE PEOPLE OF SAMARKHAND FEAR HIM.

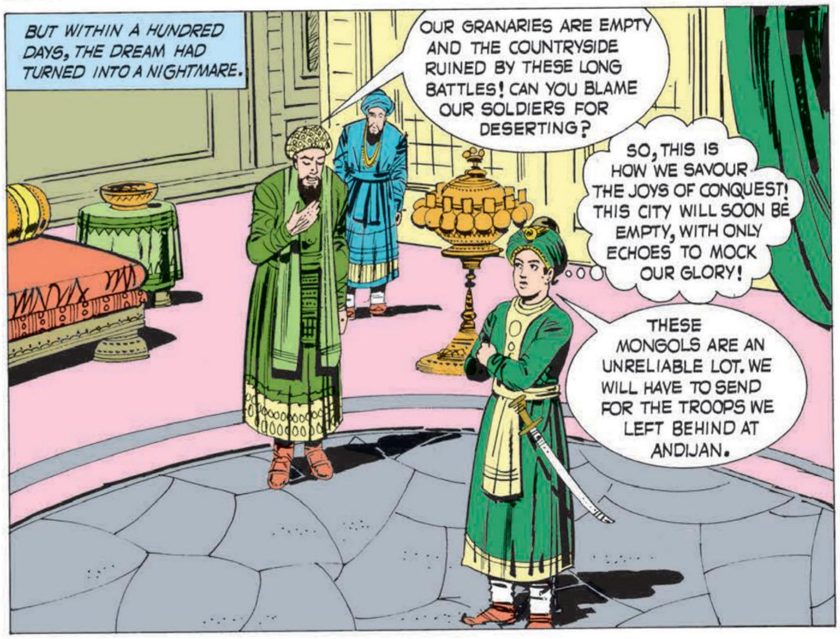

BABUR MADE A QUICK DECISION.
FOLLOW ME! WE WILL FACE THE ENEMY FROM UP THERE!

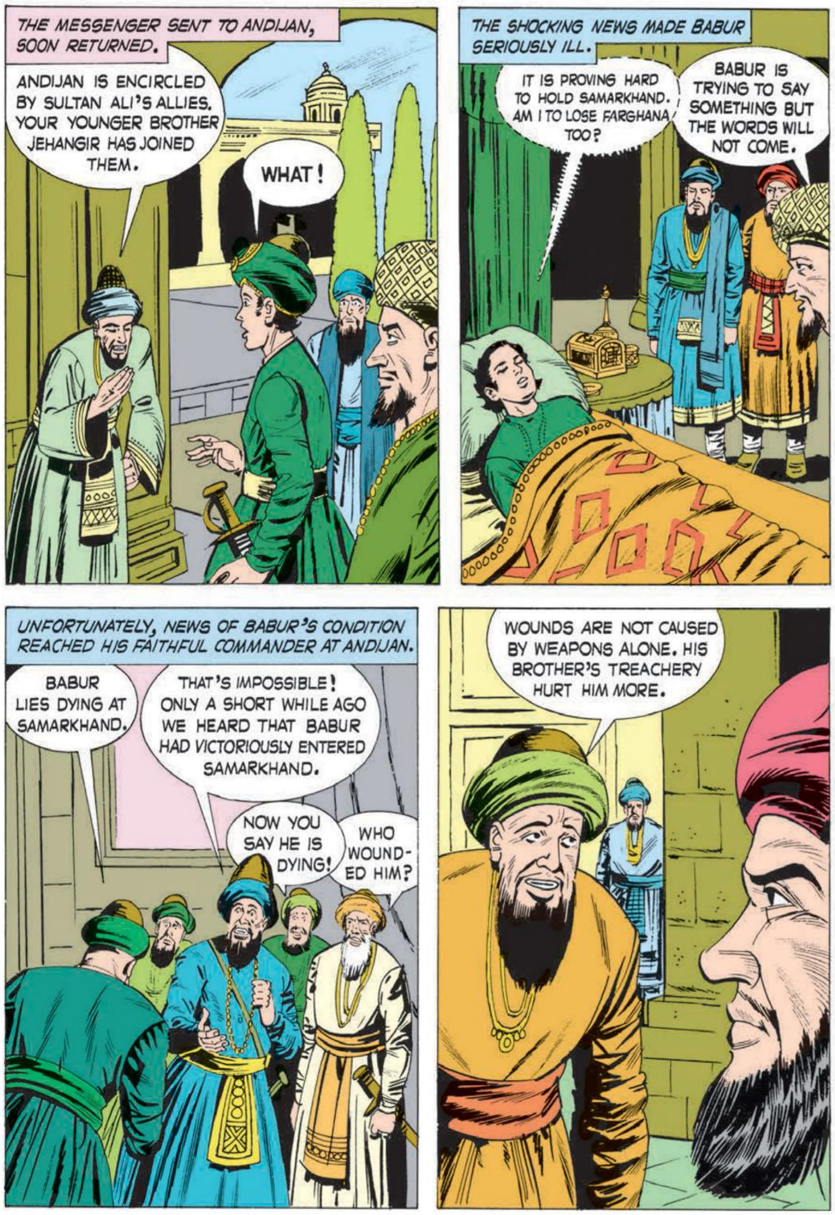

WE CAN'T SEE BEYOND THAT RISE!
WAIT. IT'S A TRAP! THERE MUST BE AN ARMY BEHIND THAT GROUP!
BABUR, SHOULDN'T WE MOVE ON?
NO! LET THEM MAKE THE FIRST MOVE!

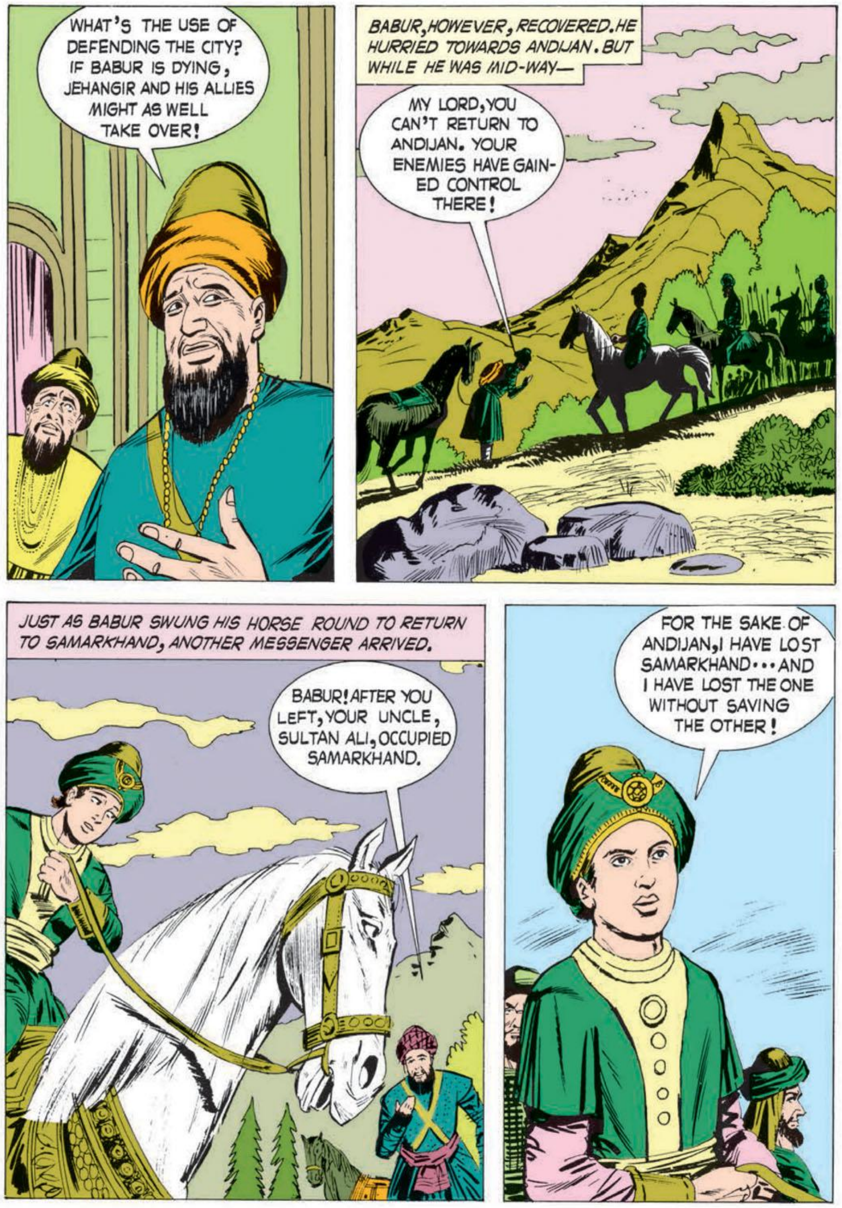

EVENING DESCENDED. BABUR'S MEN WERE STILL STANDING GUARD.
MY LORD, THE UZBEKS ARE RETREATING!
THEY ARE HEADING NORTHWARDS.

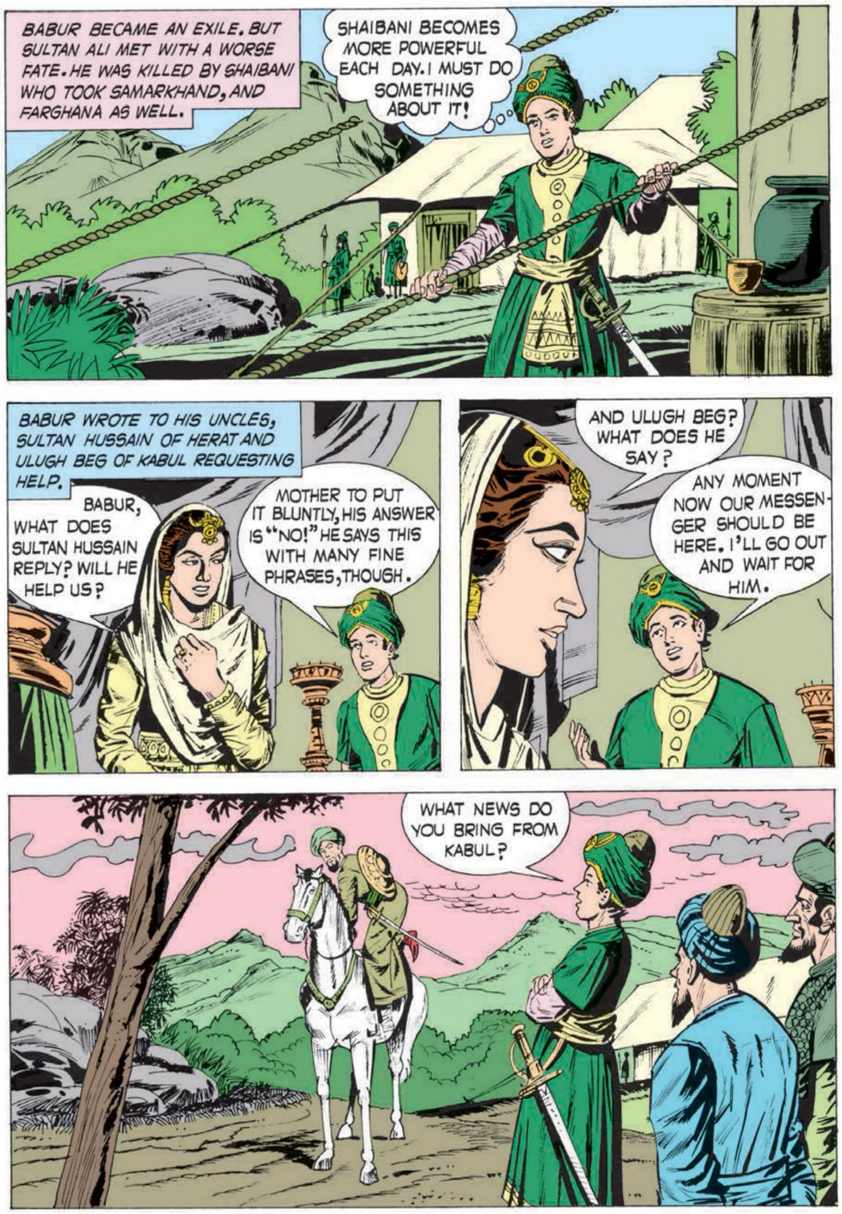

THE NEXT MORNING, THE TOWNSPEOPLE EMERGED FROM SAMARKHAND AND TO BABUR'S SURPRISE, SURROUNDED HIM WITH CRIES OF JOY.
BABUR! TRUE DESCENDANT OF THE TIMURS! WELCOME!
YOU HAVE SAVED US FROM THE DREADED UZBEKS!

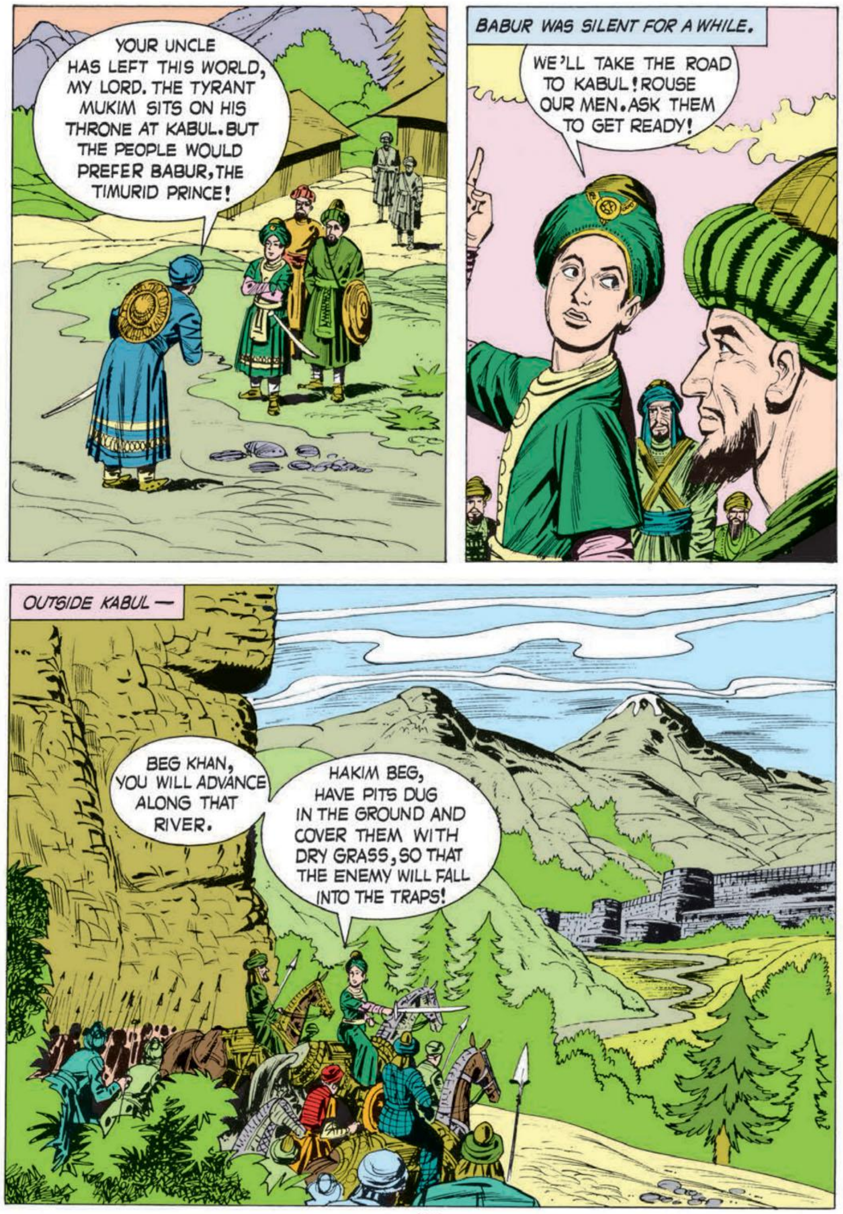

BABUR WAS ESCORTED INTO SAMARKHAND.
TO TIMUR'S THRONE!
TO TIMUR'S THRONE!
SAMARKHAND WAS HIS AT LAST. BABUR'S DREAM HAD COME TRUE.

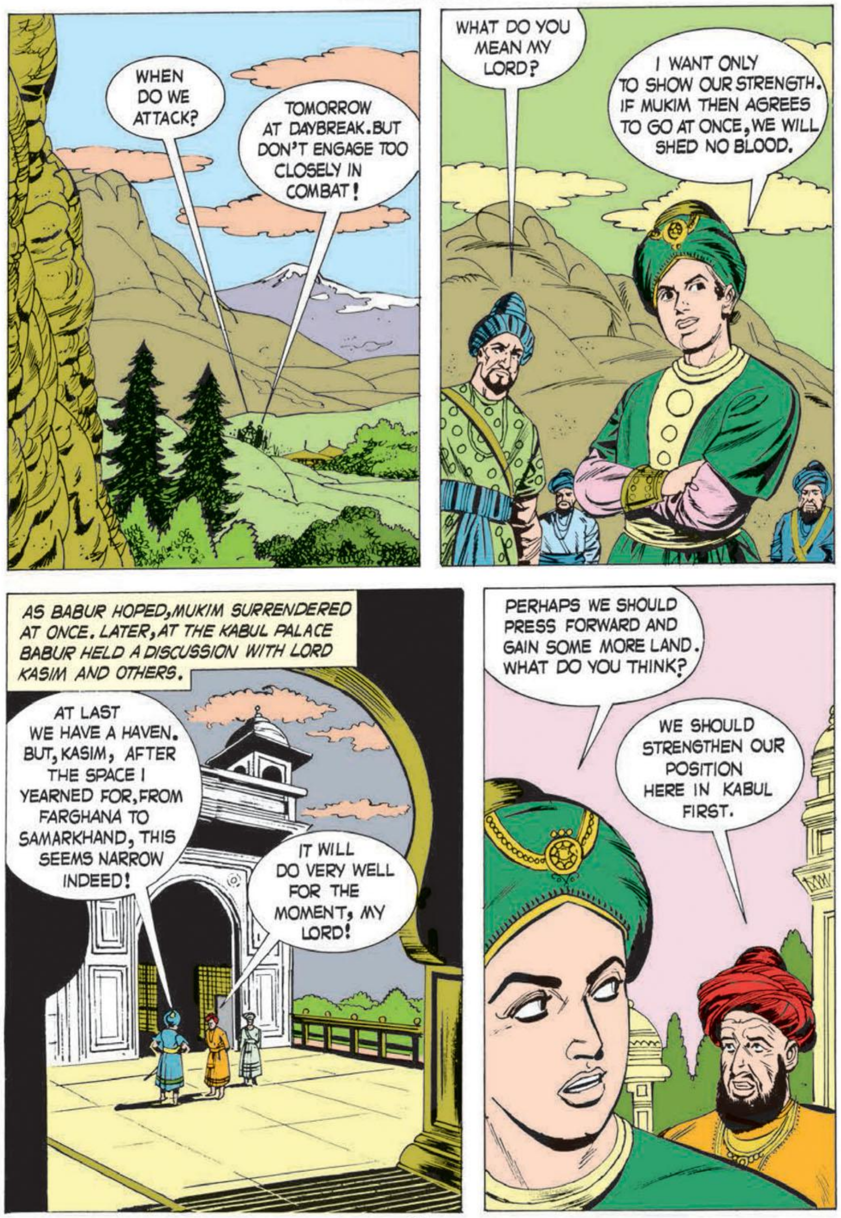

BUT WITHIN A HUNDRED DAYS, THE DREAM HAD TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE.
OUR GRANARIES ARE EMPTY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE RUINED BY THESE LONG BATTLES! CAN YOU BLAME OUR SOLDIERS FOR DESERTING?
SO, THIS IS HOW WE SAVOUR THE JOYS OF CONQUEST! THIS CITY WILL SOON BE EMPTY, WITH ONLY ECHOES TO MOCK OUR GLORY!
THESE MONGOLS ARE AN UNRELIABLE LOT. WE WILL HAVE TO SEND FOR THE TROOPS WE LEFT BEHIND AT ANDIJAN.

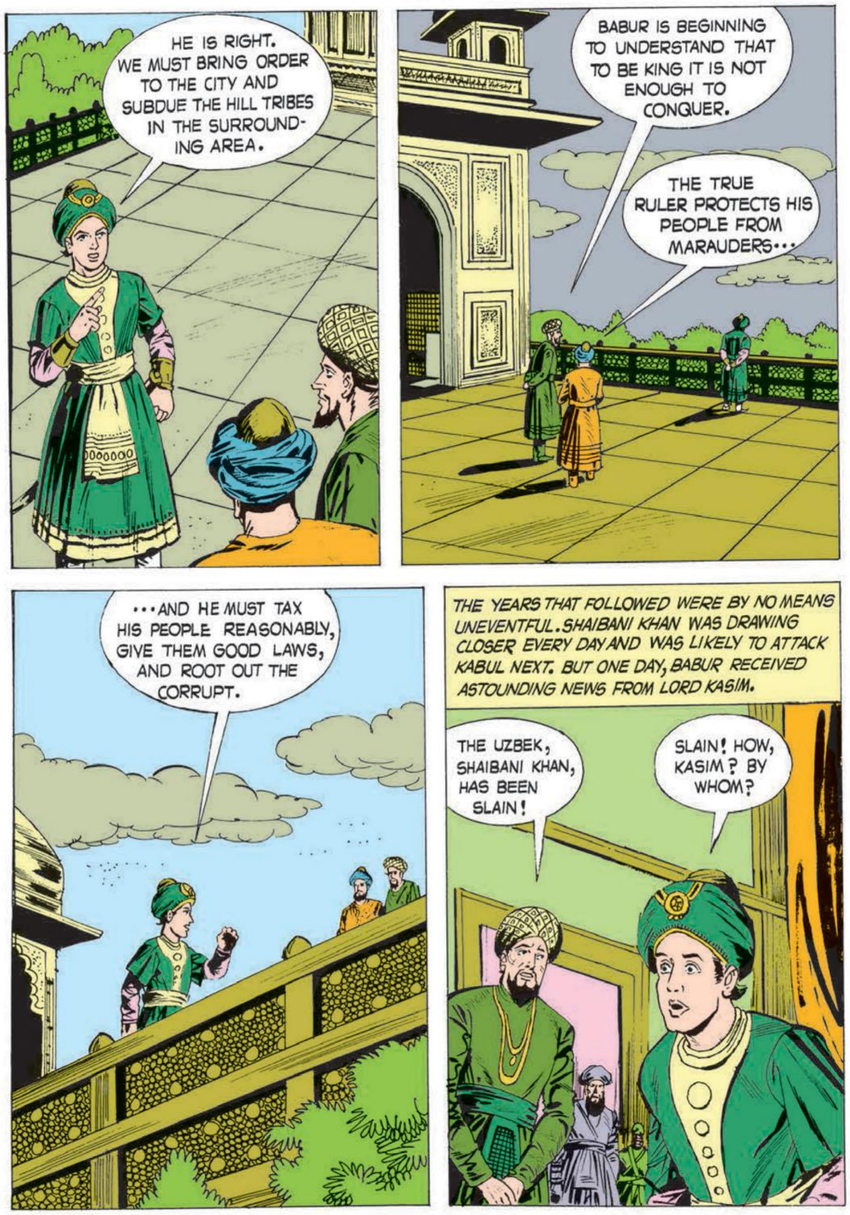

THE MESSENGER SENT TO ANDIJAN, SOON RETURNED.
ANDIJAN IS ENCIRCLED BY SULTAN ALI'S ALLIES. YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER JEHANGIR HAS JOINED THEM.
WHAT!
THE SHOCKING NEWS MADE BABUR SERIOUSLY ILL.
IT IS PROVING HARD TO HOLD SAMARKHAND. AM I TO LOSE FARGHANA TOO?
BABUR IS TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING BUT THE WORDS WILL NOT COME.
UNFORTUNATELY, NEWS OF BABUR'S CONDITION REACHED HIS FAITHFUL COMMANDER AT ANDIJAN.
BABUR LIES DYING AT SAMARKHAND.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! ONLY A SHORT WHILE AGO WE HEARD THAT BABUR HAD VICTORIOUSLY ENTERED SAMARKHAND.
NOW YOU SAY HE IS DYING!
WHO WOUNDED HIM?
WOUNDS ARE NOT CAUSED BY WEAPONS ALONE. HIS BROTHER'S TREACHERY HURT HIM MORE.

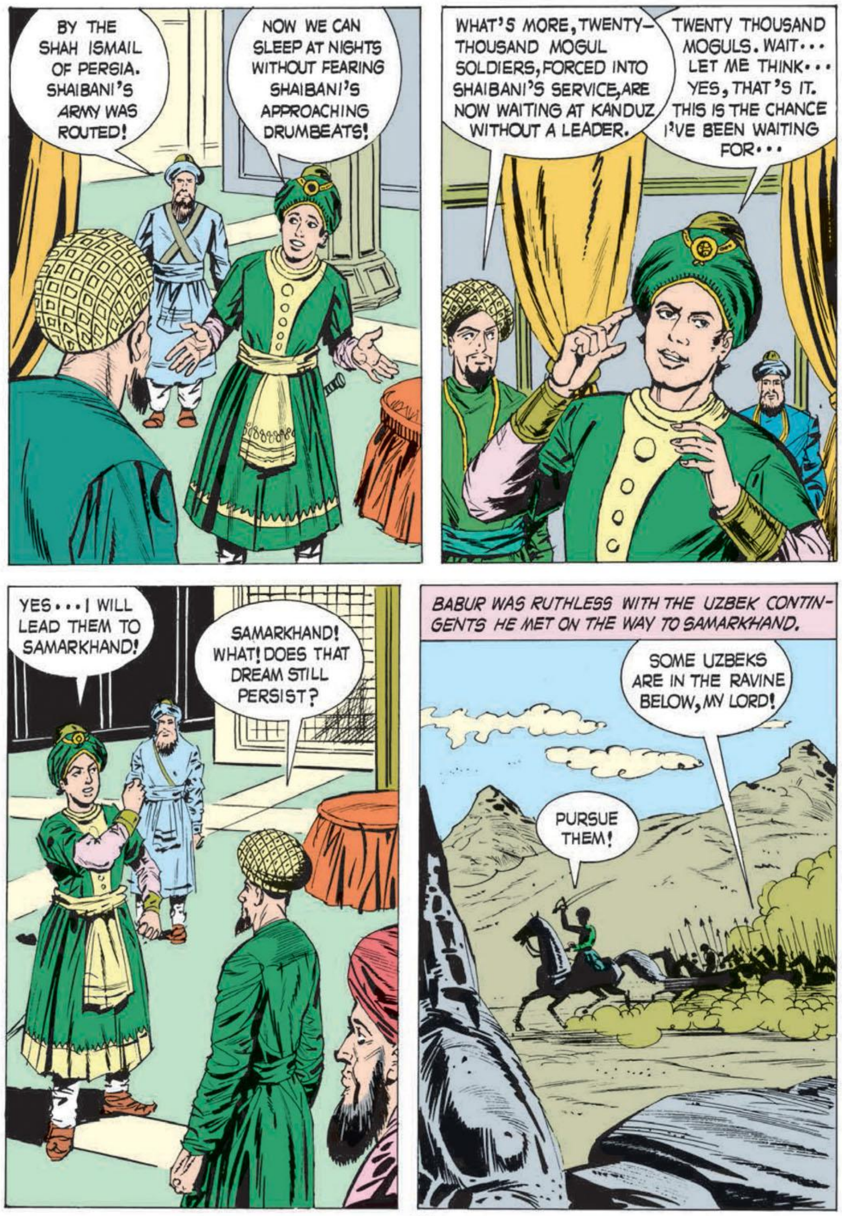

WHAT'S THE USE OF DEFENDING THE CITY? IF BABUR IS DYING, JEHANGIR AND HIS ALLIES MIGHT AS WELL TAKE OVER!
BABUR, HOWEVER, RECOVERED. HE HURRIED TOWARDS ANDIJAN. BUT WHILE HE WAS MID-WAY—
MY LORD, YOU CAN'T RETURN TO ANDIJAN. YOUR ENEMIES HAVE GAINED CONTROL THERE!
JUST AS BABUR SWUNG HIS HORSE ROUND TO RETURN TO SAMARKHAND, ANOTHER MESSENGER ARRIVED.
BABUR! AFTER YOU LEFT, YOUR UNCLE, SULTAN ALI, OCCUPIED SAMARKHAND.
FOR THE SAKE OF ANDIJAN, I HAVE LOST SAMARKHAND... AND I HAVE LOST THE ONE WITHOUT SAVING THE OTHER!

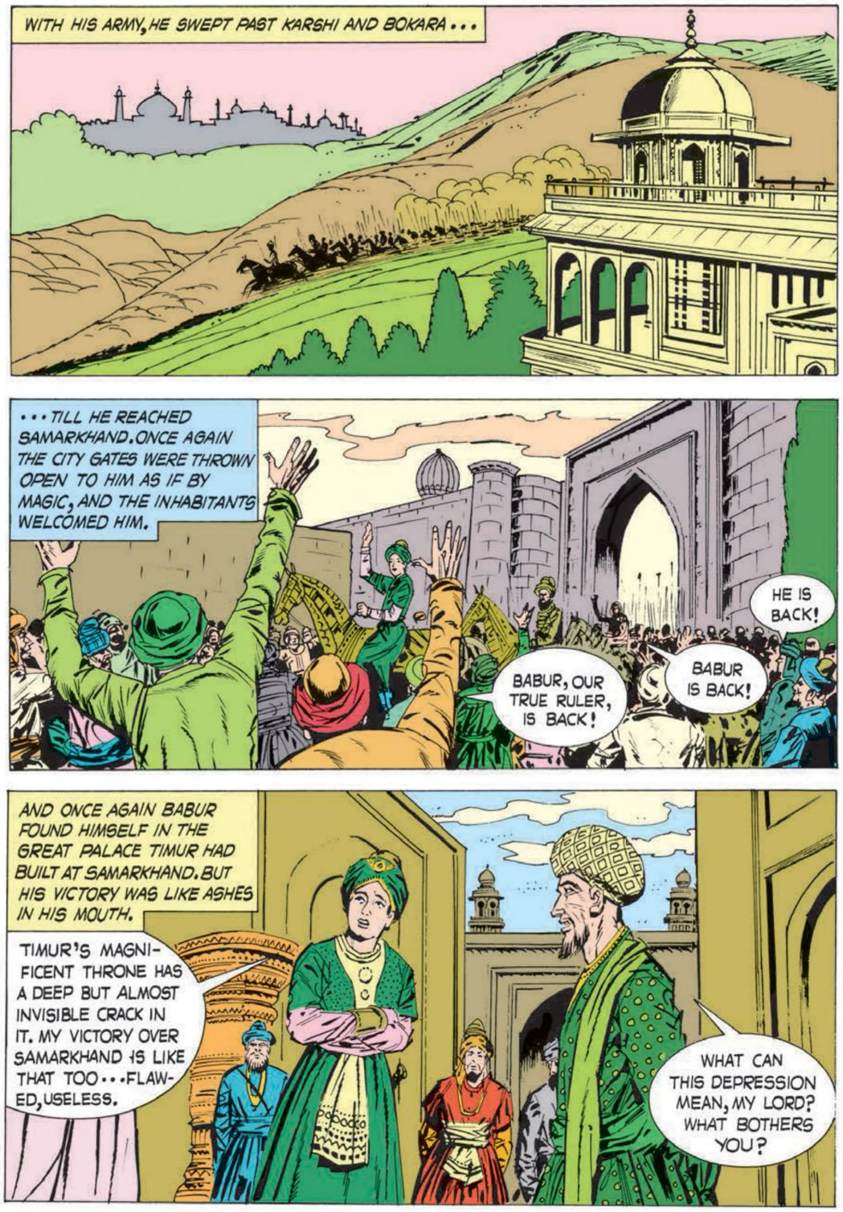

BABUR BECAME AN EXILE. BUT SULTAN ALI MET WITH A WORSE FATE. HE WAS KILLED BY SHAIBANI WHO TOOK SAMARKHAND, AND FARGHANA AS WELL.
SHAIBANI BECOMES MORE POWERFUL EACH DAY. I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
BABUR WROTE TO HIS UNCLES, SULTAN HUSSAIN OF HERAT AND ULUGH BEG OF KABUL REQUESTING HELP.
BABUR, WHAT DOES SULTAN HUSSAIN REPLY? WILL HE HELP US?
MOTHER TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, HIS ANSWER IS "NO!" HE SAYS THIS WITH MANY FINE PHRASES, THOUGH.
AND ULUGH BEG? WHAT DOES HE SAY?
ANY MOMENT NOW OUR MESSENGER SHOULD BE HERE. I'LL GO OUT AND WAIT FOR HIM.
WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING FROM KABUL?

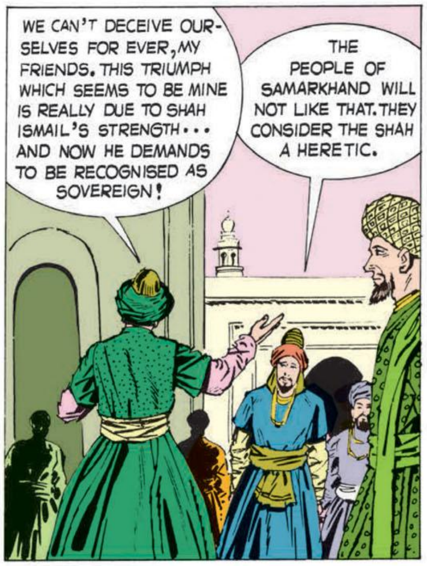

YOUR UNCLE HAS LEFT THIS WORLD, MY LORD. THE TYRANT MUKIM SITS ON HIS THRONE AT KABUL. BUT THE PEOPLE WOULD PREFER BABUR, THE TIMURID PRINCE!
BABUR WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE.
WE'LL TAKE THE ROAD TO KABUL! ROUSE OUR MEN. ASK THEM TO GET READY!
OUTSIDE KABUL —
BEG KHAN, YOU WILL ADVANCE ALONG THAT RIVER.
HAKIM BEG, HAVE PITS DUG IN THE GROUND AND COVER THEM WITH DRY GRASS, SO THAT THE ENEMY WILL FALL INTO THE TRAPS!

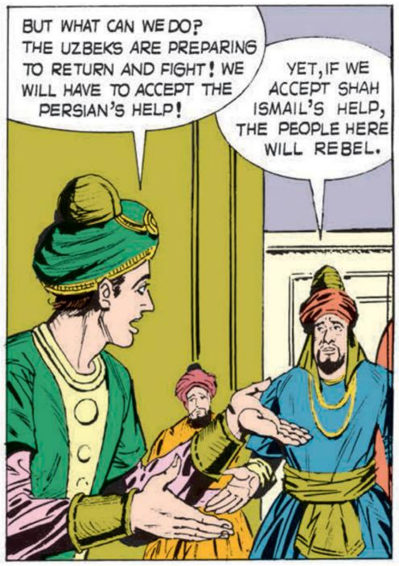

WHEN DO WE ATTACK?
TOMORROW AT DAYBREAK. BUT DON'T ENGAGE TOO CLOSELY IN COMBAT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN MY LORD?
I WANT ONLY TO SHOW OUR STRENGTH. IF MUKIM THEN AGREES TO GO AT ONCE, WE WILL SHED NO BLOOD.
AS BABUR HOPED, MUKIM SURRENDERED AT ONCE. LATER, AT THE KABUL PALACE BABUR HELD A DISCUSSION WITH LORD KASIM AND OTHERS.
AT LAST WE HAVE A HAVEN. BUT, KASIM, AFTER THE SPACE I YEARNED FOR, FROM FARGHANA TO SAMARKHAND, THIS SEEMS NARROW INDEED!
IT WILL DO VERY WELL FOR THE MOMENT, MY LORD!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD PRESS FORWARD AND GAIN SOME MORE LAND. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WE SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION HERE IN KABUL FIRST.

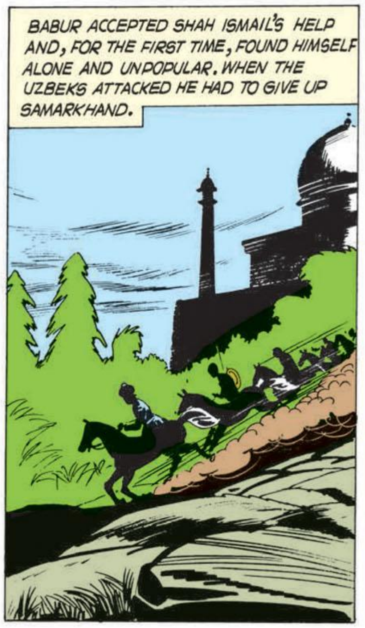

HE IS RIGHT. WE MUST BRING ORDER TO THE CITY AND SUBDUE THE HILL TRIBES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.
BABUR IS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT TO BE KING IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONQUER.
THE TRUE RULER PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE FROM MARAUDERS...
...AND HE MUST TAX HIS PEOPLE REASONABLY, GIVE THEM GOOD LAWS, AND ROOT OUT THE CORRUPT.
THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED WERE BY NO MEANS UNEVENTFUL. SHAIBANI KHAN WAS DRAWING CLOSER EVERY DAY AND WAS LIKELY TO ATTACK KABUL NEXT. BUT ONE DAY, BABUR RECEIVED ASTOUNDING NEWS FROM LORD KASIM.
THE UZBEK, SHAIBANI KHAN, HAS BEEN SLAIN!
SLAIN! HOW, KASIM? BY WHOM?

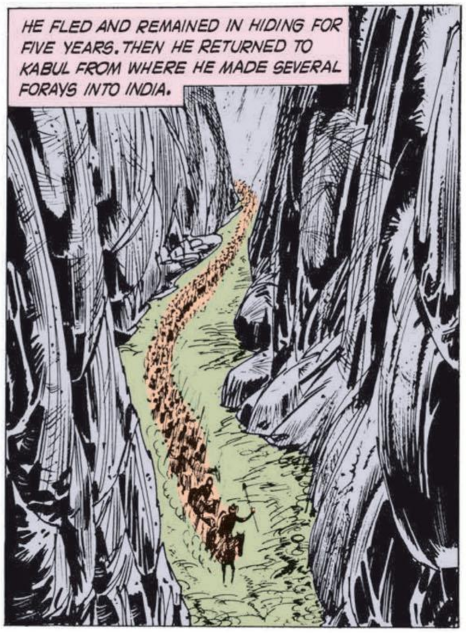

BY THE SHAH ISMAIL OF PERSIA. SHAIBANI'S ARMY WAS ROUTED!
NOW WE CAN SLEEP AT NIGHTS WITHOUT FEARING SHAIBANI'S APPROACHING DRUMBEATS!
WHAT'S MORE, TWENTY-THOUSAND MOGUL SOLDIERS, FORCED INTO SHAIBANI'S SERVICE, ARE NOW WAITING AT KANDUZ WITHOUT A LEADER.
TWENTY THOUSAND MOGULS. WAIT... LET ME THINK... YES, THAT'S IT. THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...
YES... I WILL LEAD THEM TO SAMARKHAND!
SAMARKHAND! WHAT! DOES THAT DREAM STILL PERSIST?
BABUR WAS RUTHLESS WITH THE UZBEK CONTINGENTS HE MET ON THE WAY TO SAMARKHAND.
SOME UZBEKS ARE IN THE RAVINE BELOW, MY LORD!
PURSUE THEM!

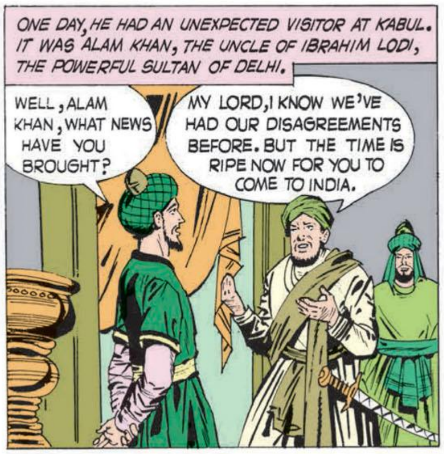

WITH HIS ARMY, HE SWEPT PAST KARSHI AND BOKARA . . .
. . . TILL HE REACHED SAMARKHAND. ONCE AGAIN THE CITY GATES WERE THROWN OPEN TO HIM AS IF BY MAGIC, AND THE INHABITANTS WELCOMED HIM.
HE IS BACK!
BABUR IS BACK!
BABUR, OUR TRUE RULER, IS BACK!
AND ONCE AGAIN BABUR FOUND HIMSELF IN THE GREAT PALACE TIMUR HAD BUILT AT SAMARKHAND. BUT HIS VICTORY WAS LIKE ASHES IN HIS MOUTH.
TIMUR'S MAGNIFICENT THRONE HAS A DEEP BUT ALMOST INVISIBLE CRACK IN IT. MY VICTORY OVER SAMARKHAND IS LIKE THAT TOO . . . FLAWED, USELESS.
WHAT CAN THIS DEPRESSION MEAN, MY LORD? WHAT BOTHERS YOU?

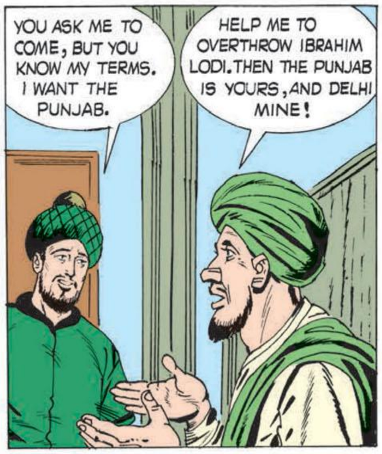

WE CAN'T DECEIVE OURSELVES FOR EVER, MY FRIENDS. THIS TRIUMPH WHICH SEEMS TO BE MINE IS REALLY DUE TO SHAH ISMAIL'S STRENGTH... AND NOW HE DEMANDS TO BE RECOGNISED AS SOVEREIGN!
THE PEOPLE OF SAMARKHAND WILL NOT LIKE THAT. THEY CONSIDER THE SHAH A HERETIC.

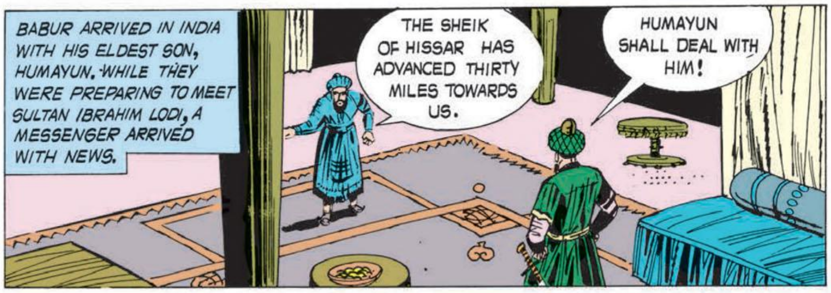

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO? THE UZBEKS ARE PREPARING TO RETURN AND FIGHT! WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE PERSIAN'S HELP!
YET, IF WE ACCEPT SHAH ISMAIL'S HELP, THE PEOPLE HERE WILL REBEL.

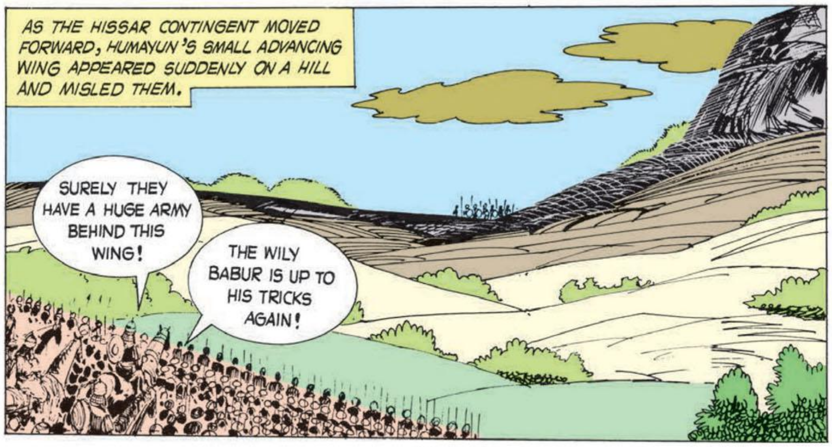

BABUR ACCEPTED SHAH ISMAIL'S HELP AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, FOUND HIMSELF ALONE AND UNPOPULAR. WHEN THE UZBEKS ATTACKED HE HAD TO GIVE UP SAMARKHAND.

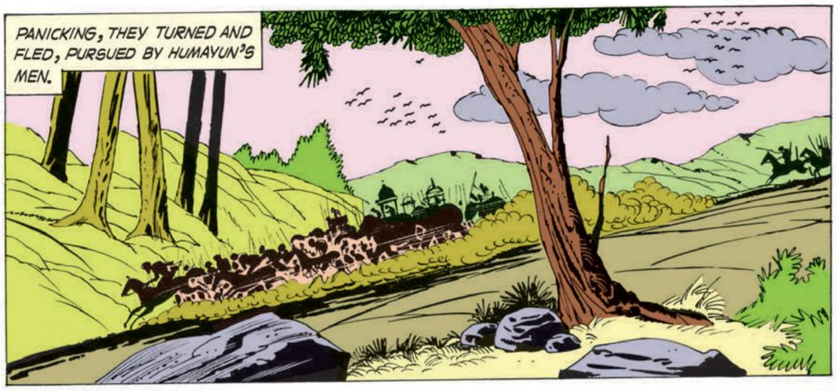

HE FLED AND REMAINED IN HIDING FOR FIVE YEARS. THEN HE RETURNED TO KABUL FROM WHERE HE MADE SEVERAL FORAYS INTO INDIA.

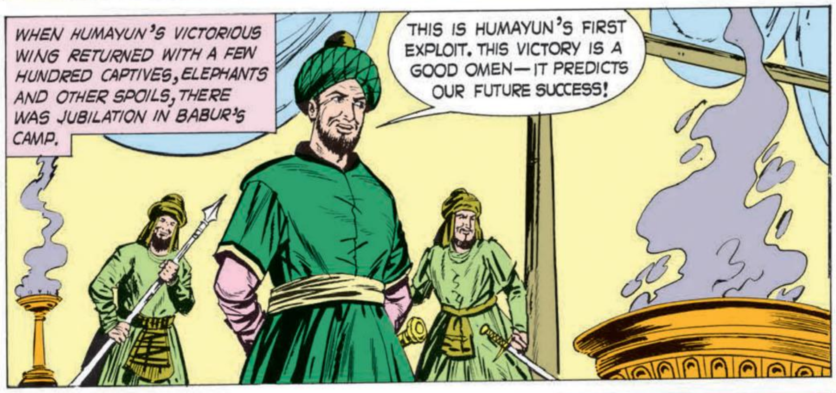

ONE DAY, HE HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR AT KABUL. IT WAS ALAM KHAN, THE UNCLE OF IBRAHIM LODI, THE POWERFUL SULTAN OF DELHI.
WELL, ALAM KHAN, WHAT NEWS HAVE YOU BROUGHT?
MY LORD, I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR DISAGREEMENTS BEFORE. BUT THE TIME IS RIPE NOW FOR YOU TO COME TO INDIA.

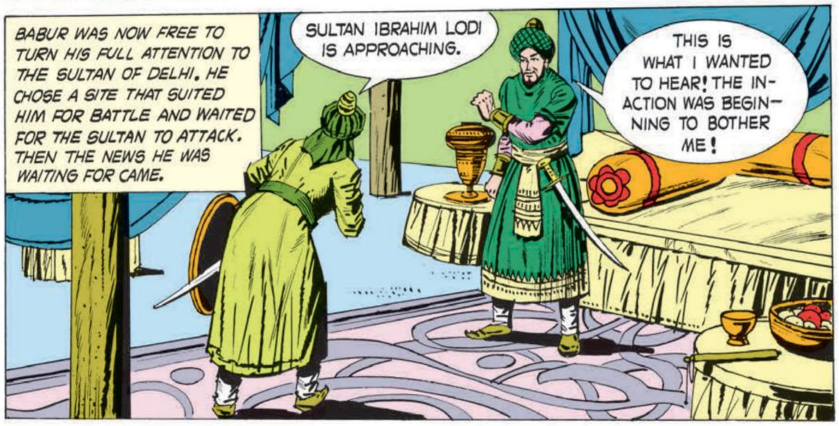

YOU ASK ME TO COME, BUT YOU KNOW MY TERMS. I WANT THE PUNJAB.
HELP ME TO OVERTHROW IBRAHIM LODI. THEN THE PUNJAB IS YOURS, AND DELHI MINE!

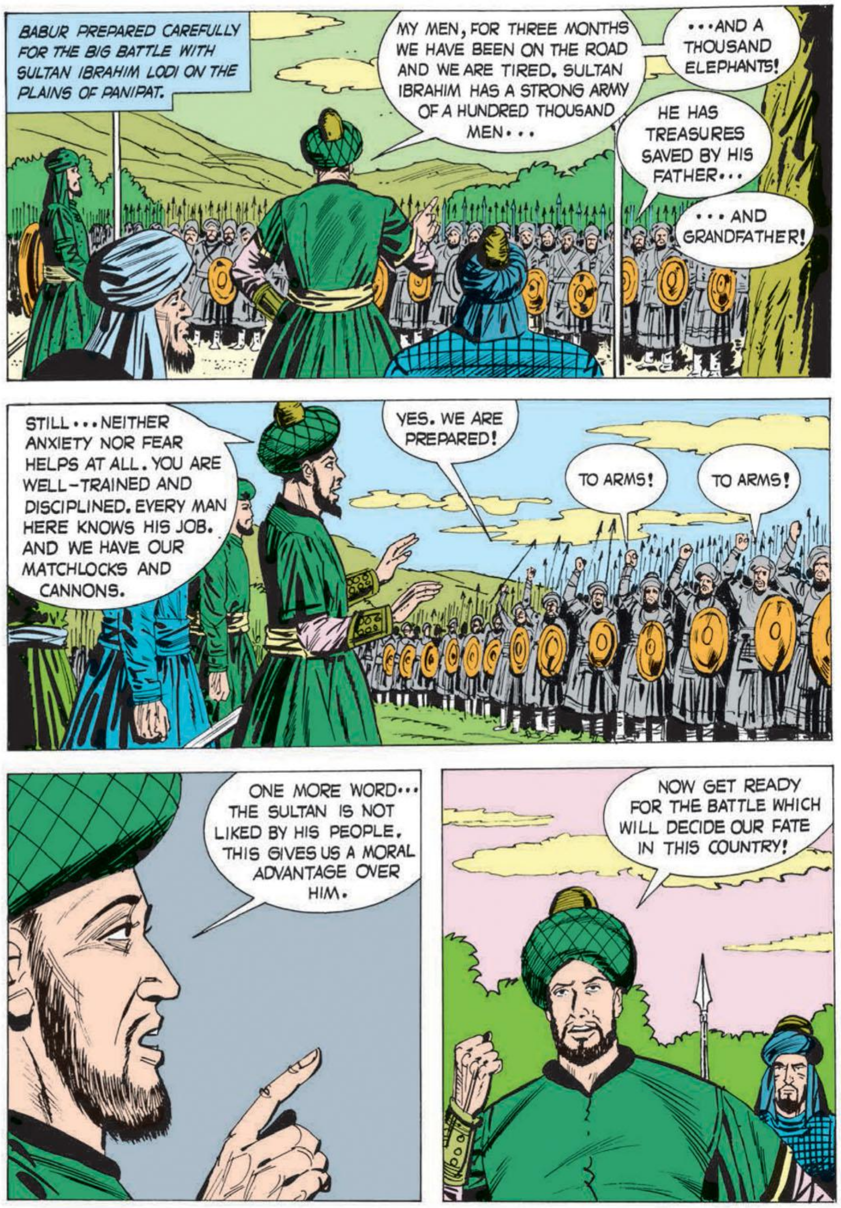

BABUR ARRIVED IN INDIA WITH HIS ELDEST SON, HUMAYUN. WHILE THEY WERE PREPARING TO MEET SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI, A MESSENGER ARRIVED WITH NEWS.
THE SHEIK OF HISSAR HAS ADVANCED THIRTY MILES TOWARDS US.
HUMAYUN SHALL DEAL WITH HIM!

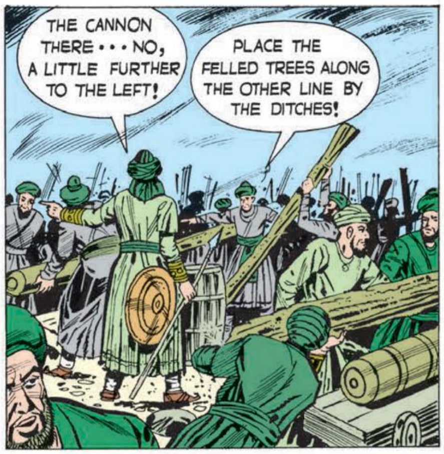

AS THE HISSAR CONTINGENT MOVED FORWARD, HUMAYUN'S SMALL ADVANCING WING APPEARED SUDDENLY ON A HILL AND MISLED THEM.
SURELY THEY HAVE A HUGE ARMY BEHIND THIS WING!
THE WILY BABUR IS UP TO HIS TRICKS AGAIN!

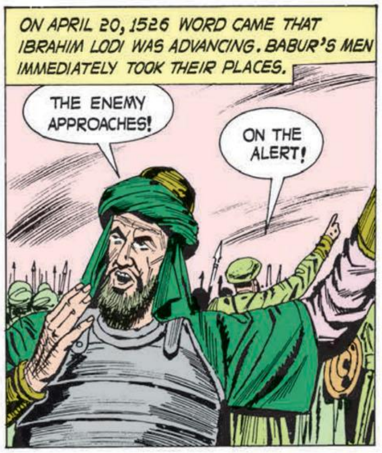

PANICKING, THEY TURNED AND FLED, PURSUED BY HUMAYUN'S MEN.

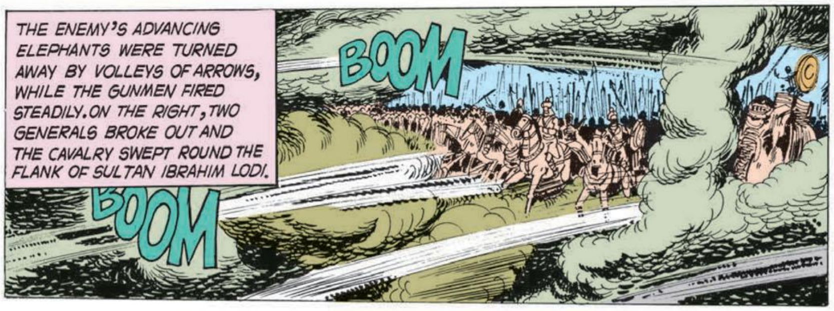

WHEN HUMAYUN'S VICTORIOUS WING RETURNED WITH A FEW HUNDRED CAPTIVES, ELEPHANTS AND OTHER SPOILS, THERE WAS JUBILATION IN BABUR'S CAMP.
THIS IS HUMAYUN'S FIRST EXPLOIT. THIS VICTORY IS A GOOD OMEN—IT PREDICTS OUR FUTURE SUCCESS!

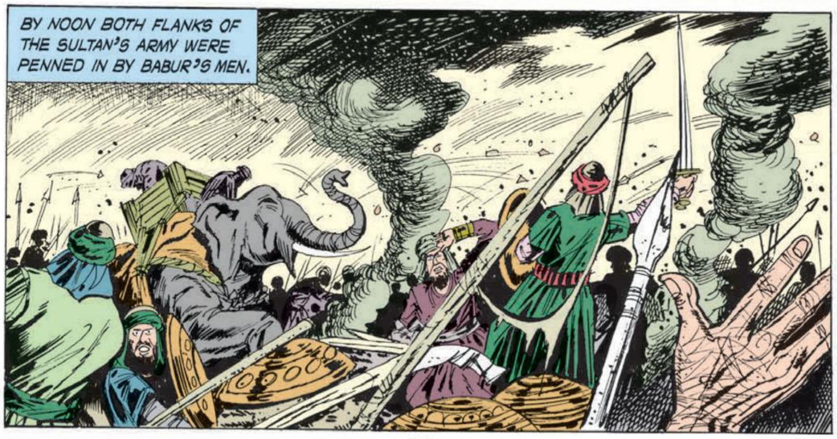

BABUR WAS NOW FREE TO TURN HIS FULL ATTENTION TO THE SULTAN OF DELHI. HE CHOSE A SITE THAT SUITED HIM FOR BATTLE AND WAITED FOR THE SULTAN TO ATTACK. THEN THE NEWS HE WAS WAITING FOR CAME.
SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI IS APPROACHING.
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR! THE INACTION WAS BEGINNING TO BOTHER ME!

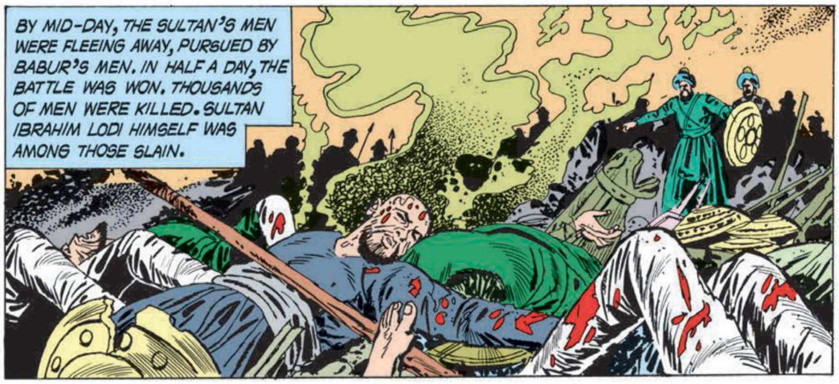

BABUR PREPARED CAREFULLY FOR THE BIG BATTLE WITH SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI ON THE PLAINS OF PANIPAT.
MY MEN, FOR THREE MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN ON THE ROAD AND WE ARE TIRED. SULTAN IBRAHIM HAS A STRONG ARMY OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN...
...AND A THOUSAND ELEPHANTS!
HE HAS TREASURES SAVED BY HIS FATHER...
...AND GRANDFATHER!
STILL...NEITHER ANXIETY NOR FEAR HELPS AT ALL. YOU ARE WELL-TRAINED AND DISCIPLINED. EVERY MAN HERE KNOWS HIS JOB. AND WE HAVE OUR MATCHLOCKS AND CANNONS.
YES. WE ARE PREPARED!
TO ARMS!
TO ARMS!
ONE MORE WORD... THE SULTAN IS NOT LIKED BY HIS PEOPLE. THIS GIVES US A MORAL ADVANTAGE OVER HIM.
NOW GET READY FOR THE BATTLE WHICH WILL DECIDE OUR FATE IN THIS COUNTRY!

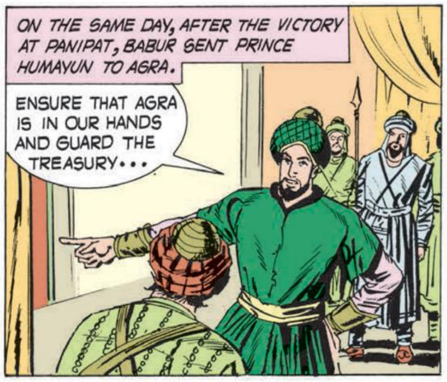

THE CANNON THERE ••• NO, A LITTLE FURTHER TO THE LEFT!
PLACE THE FELLED TREES ALONG THE OTHER LINE BY THE DITCHES!

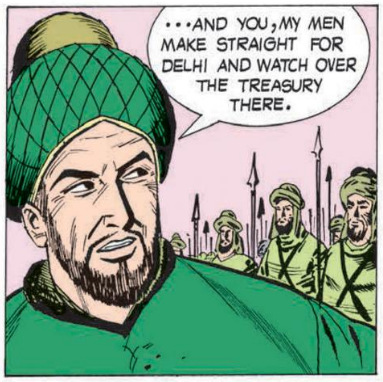

ON APRIL 20, 1526 WORD CAME THAT IBRAHIM LODI WAS ADVANCING. BABUR'S MEN IMMEDIATELY TOOK THEIR PLACES.
THE ENEMY APPROACHES!
ON THE ALERT!

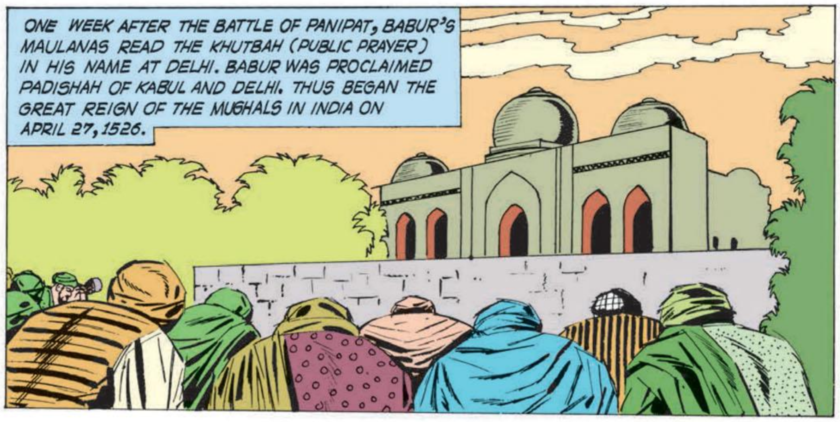

THE ENEMY'S ADVANCING ELEPHANTS WERE TURNED AWAY BY VOLLEYS OF ARROWS, WHILE THE GUNMEN FIRED STEADILY. ON THE RIGHT, TWO GENERALS BROKE OUT AND THE CAVALRY SWEPT ROUND THE FLANK OF SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI.
BOOM
BOOM


BY NOON BOTH FLANKS OF THE SULTAN'S ARMY WERE PENNED IN BY BABUR'S MEN.


BY MID-DAY, THE SULTAN'S MEN WERE FLEEING AWAY, PURSUED BY BABUR'S MEN. IN HALF A DAY, THE BATTLE WAS WON. THOUSANDS OF MEN WERE KILLED. SULTAN IBRAHIM LODI HIMSELF WAS AMONG THOSE SLAIN.


ON THE SAME DAY, AFTER THE VICTORY AT PANIPAT, BABUR SENT PRINCE HUMAYUN TO AGRA.
ENSURE THAT AGRA IS IN OUR HANDS AND GUARD THE TREASURY...


...AND YOU, MY MEN MAKE STRAIGHT FOR DELHI AND WATCH OVER THE TREASURY THERE.


ONE WEEK AFTER THE BATTLE OF PANIPAT, BABUR'S MAULANAS READ THE KHUTBAH (PUBLIC PRAYER) IN HIS NAME AT DELHI. BABUR WAS PROCLAIMED PADISHAH OF KABUL AND DELHI. THUS BEGAN THE GREAT REIGN OF THE MUGHALS IN INDIA ON APRIL 27, 1526.

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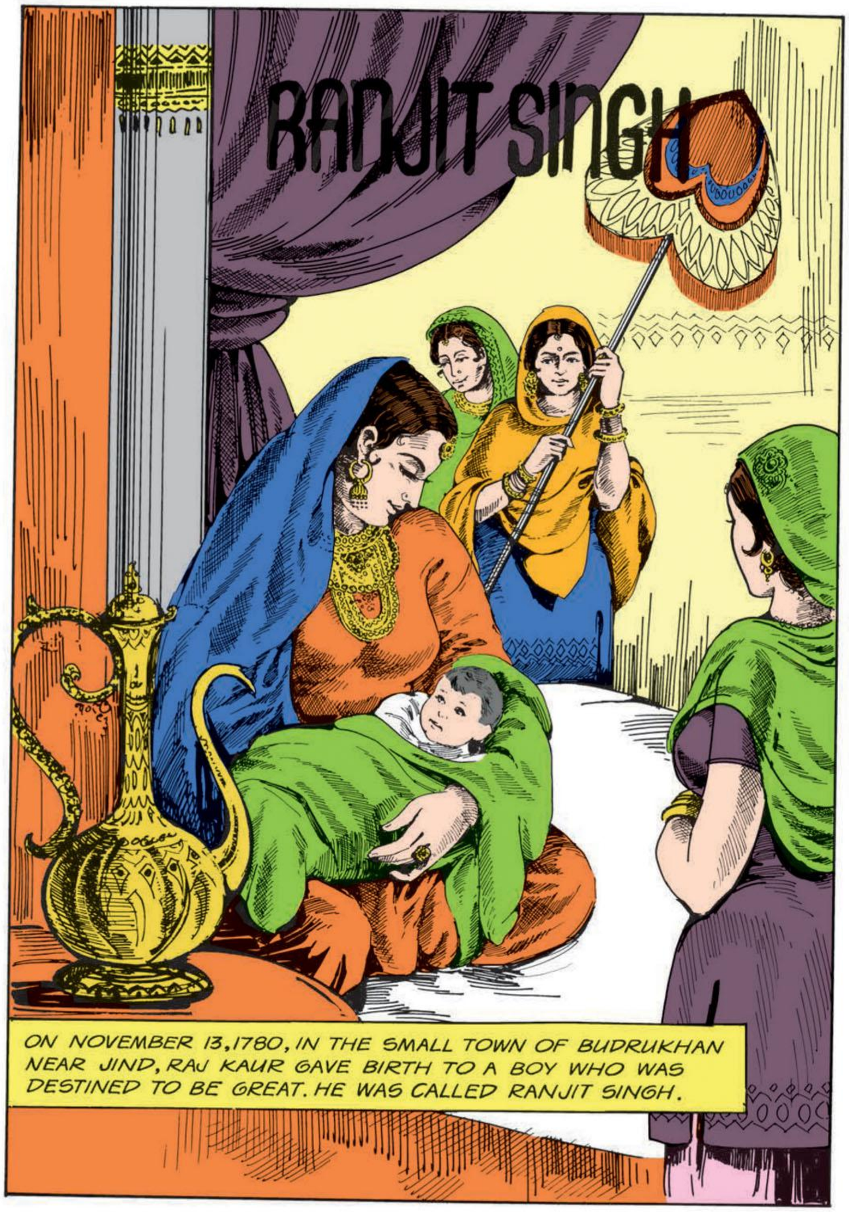
# Visionary Kings

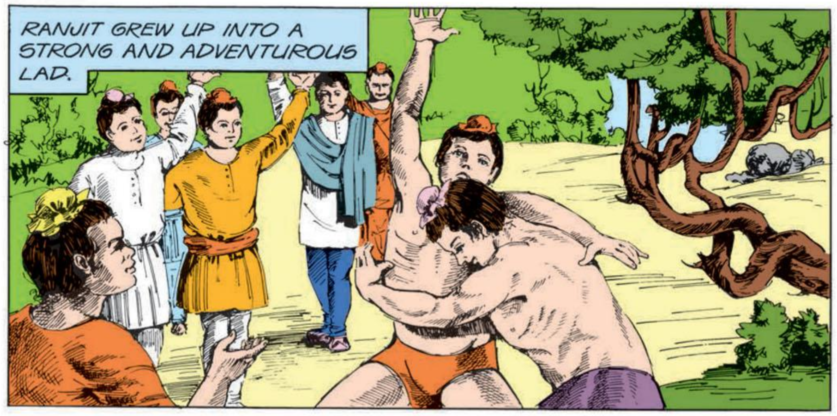
Ranjit Singh united the warring chieftains of Punjab into a new order, the Sikh Empire. He was just and fair to all his subjects, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, irrespective of religion.

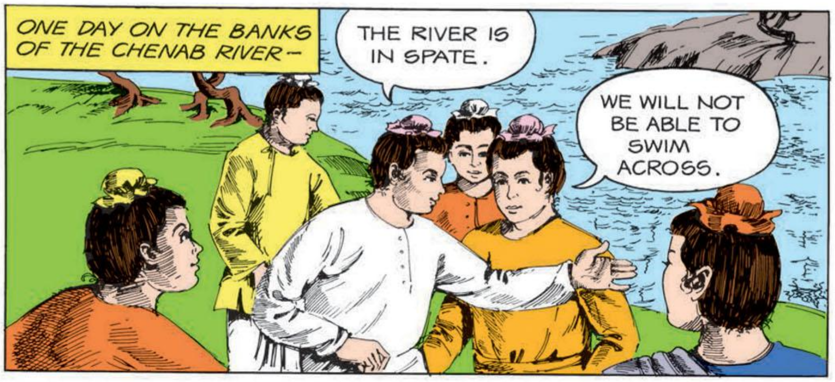
Though Shah Jahan is chiefly remembered for the Taj Mahal, he was also the founder of much of what is now Old Delhi, and of forts, mosques and gardens across North India.

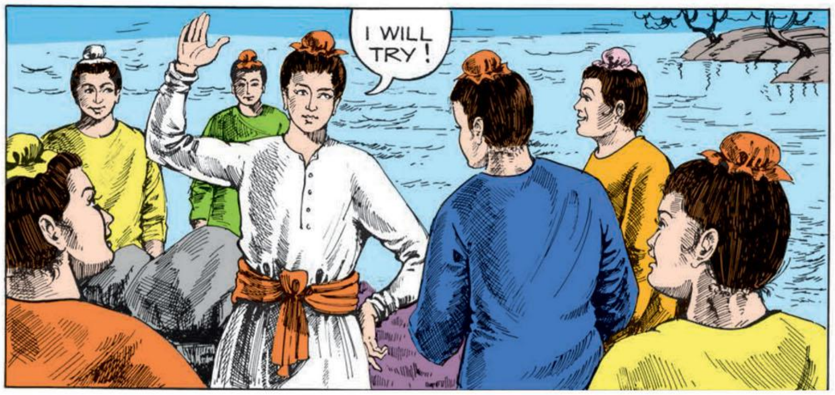
Ashoka warred and slaughtered to create a huge empire but in the end, when he had run out of conquests, it was his adoption of Buddhism that inspired him to rule as a just and benevolent king.

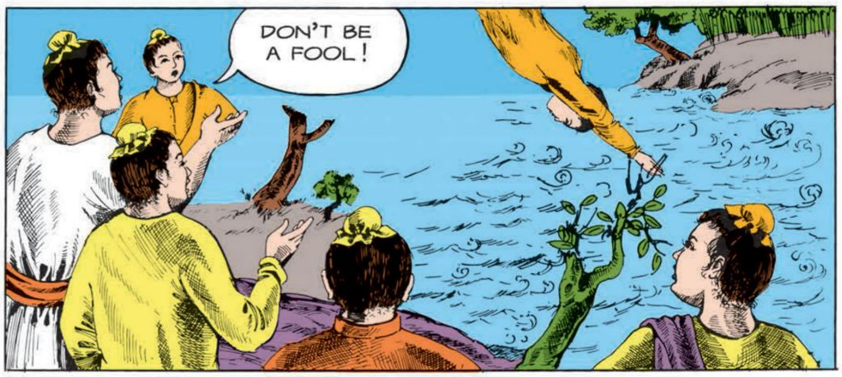
Driven by higher ideals of justice, of beauty, of unity and non-violence, the kings in this collection built and created kingdoms, monuments and ideas that would survive over centuries, long after their empires had ended.

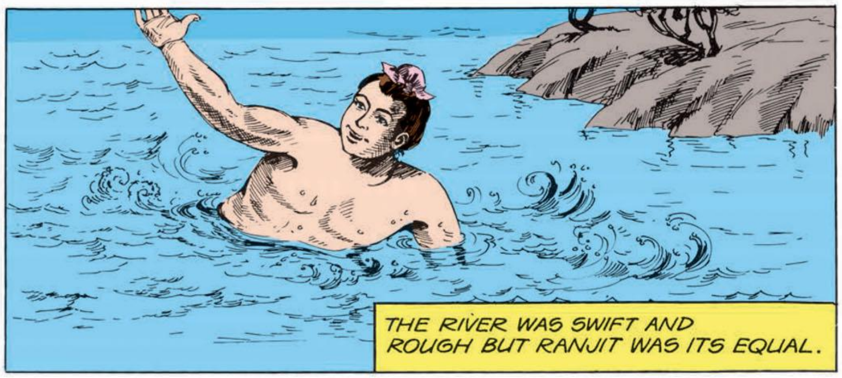

RANJIT SINGH
ON NOVEMBER 13, 1780, IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BUDRUKHAN NEAR JIND, RAJ KAUR GAVE BIRTH TO A BOY WHO WAS DESTINED TO BE GREAT. HE WAS CALLED RANJIT SINGH.

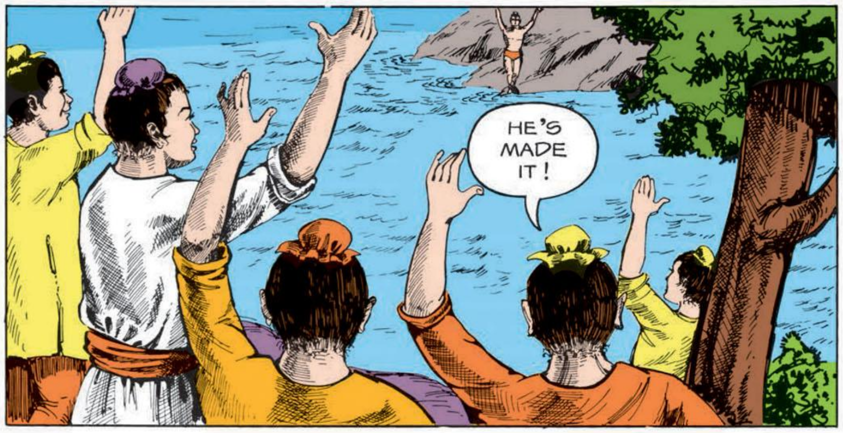

RANJIT GREW UP INTO A STRONG AND ADVENTUROUS LAD.

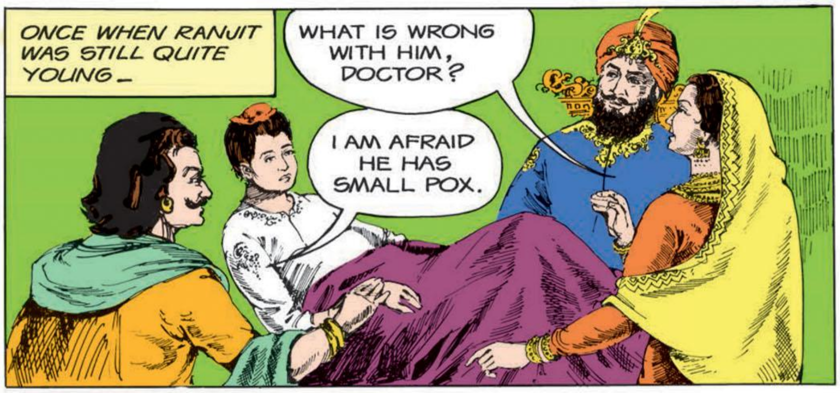

ONE DAY ON THE BANKS OF THE CHENAB RIVER—
THE RIVER IS IN SPATE.
WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SWIM ACROSS.

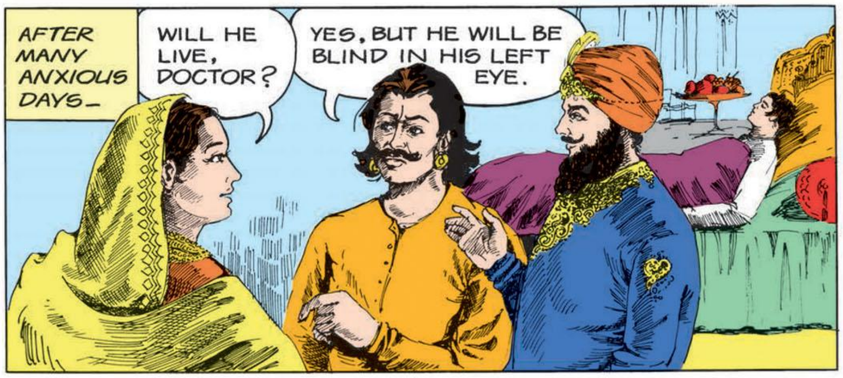

I WILL TRY!

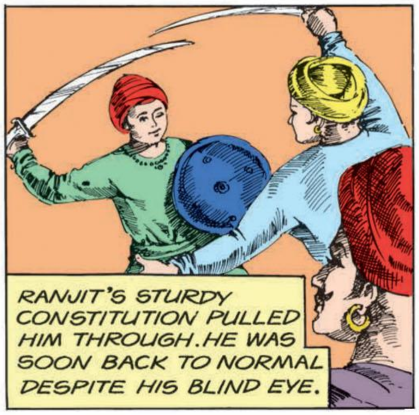

DON'T BE A FOOL!

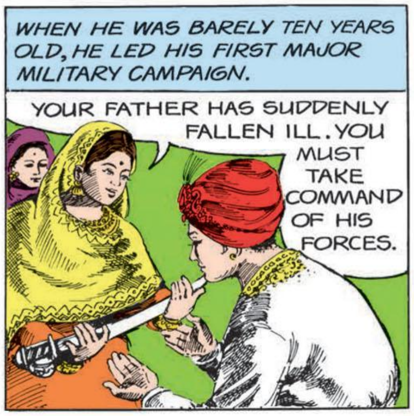

THE RIVER WAS SWIFT AND ROUGH BUT RANJIT WAS ITS EQUAL.

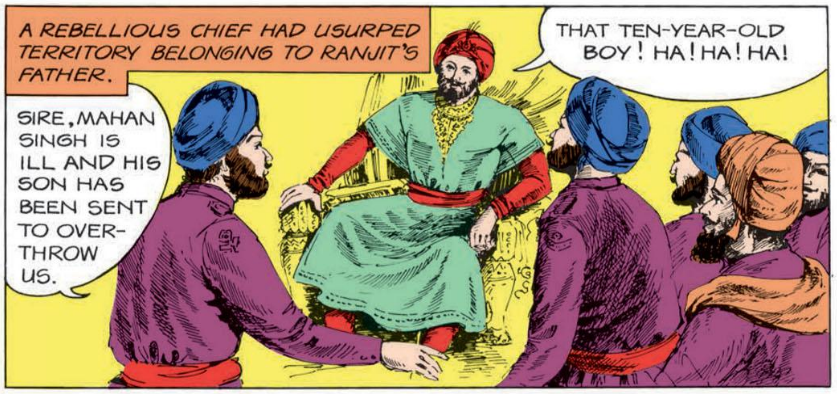

HE'S MADE IT!

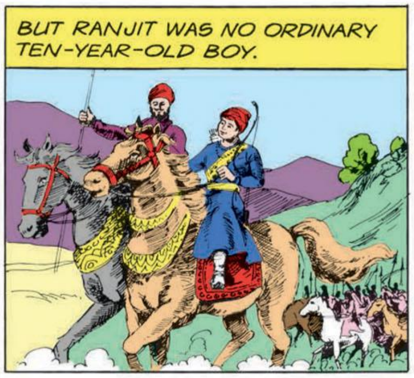

ONCE WHEN RANJIT WAS STILL QUITE YOUNG_
WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM, DOCTOR?
I AM AFRAID HE HAS SMALL POX.

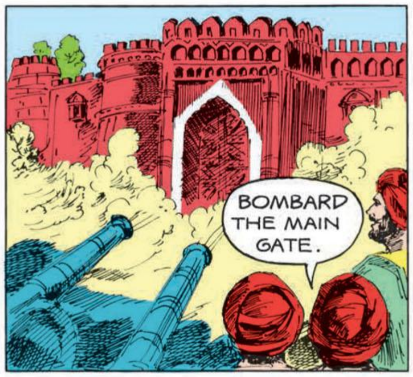

AFTER MANY ANXIOUS DAYS_
WILL HE LIVE, DOCTOR?
YES, BUT HE WILL BE BLIND IN HIS LEFT EYE.

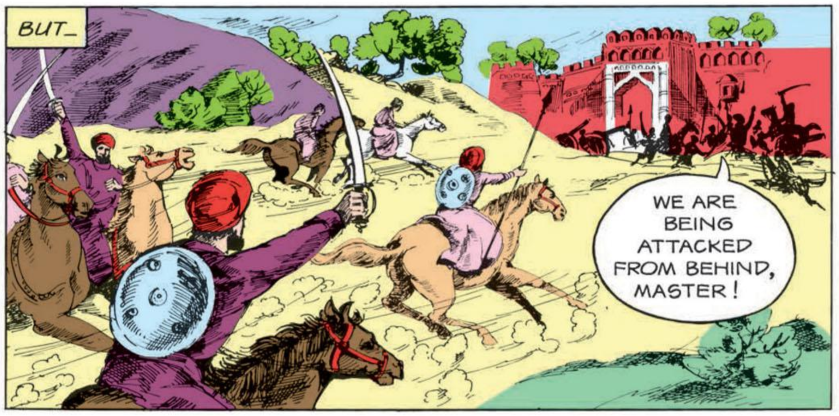

RANJIT'S STURDY CONSTITUTION PULLED HIM THROUGH. HE WAS SOON BACK TO NORMAL DESPITE HIS BLIND EYE.

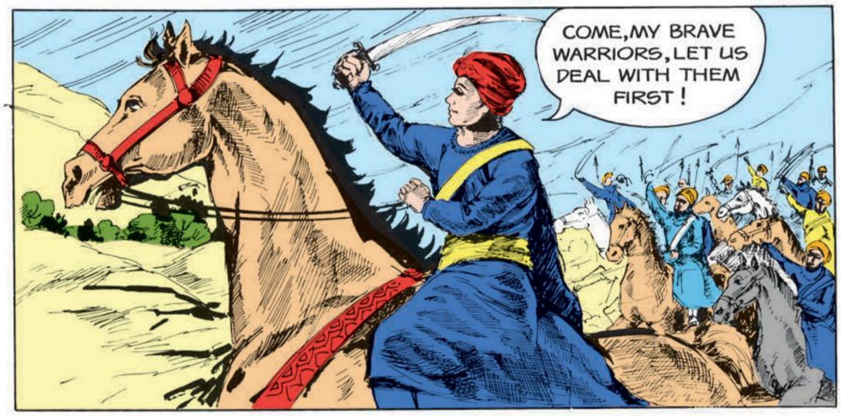

WHEN HE WAS BARELY TEN YEARS OLD, HE LED HIS FIRST MAJOR MILITARY CAMPAIGN.
YOUR FATHER HAS SUDDENLY FALLEN ILL. YOU MUST TAKE COMMAND OF HIS FORCES.

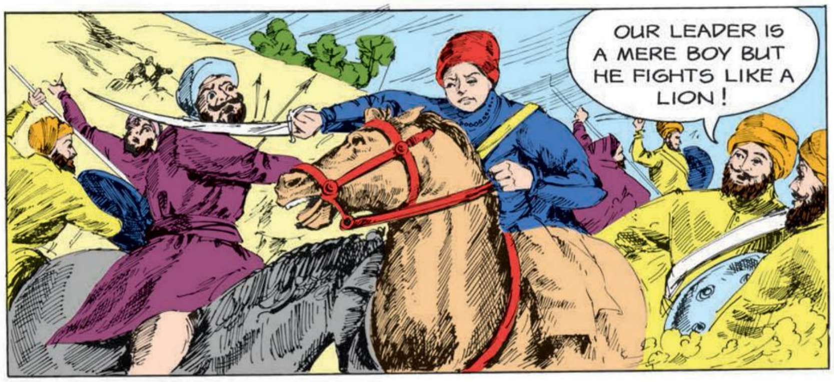

A REBELLIOUS CHIEF HAD USURPED TERRITORY BELONGING TO RANJIT'S FATHER.
SIRE, MAHAN SINGH IS ILL AND HIS SON HAS BEEN SENT TO OVERTHROW US.
THAT TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY! HA! HA! HA!

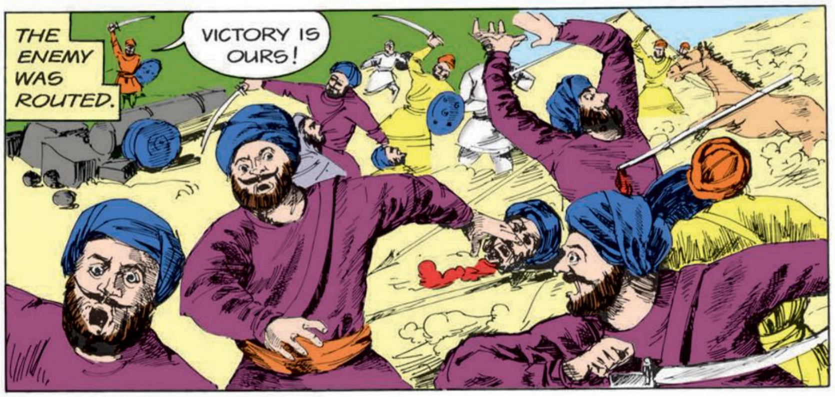

BUT RANJIT WAS NO ORDINARY TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY.

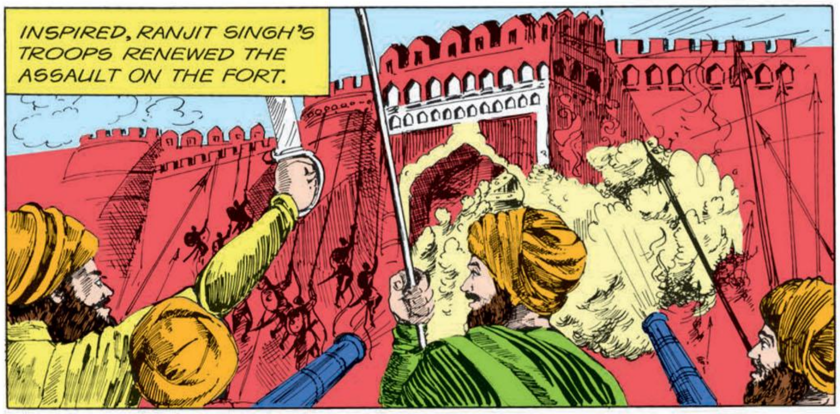

BOMBARD THE MAIN GATE.

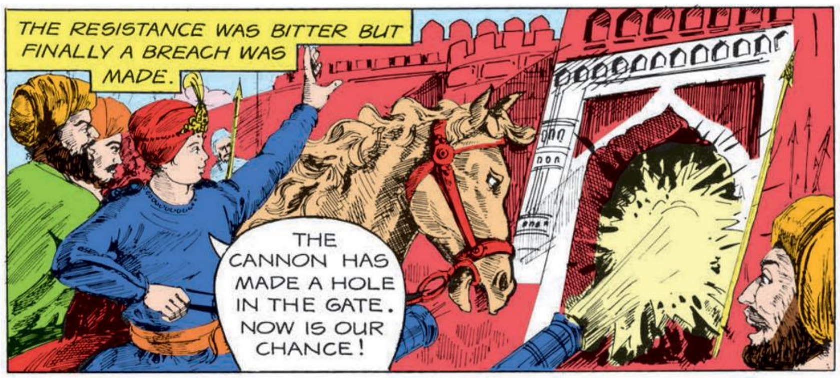

BUT_
WE ARE BEING ATTACKED FROM BEHIND, MASTER!

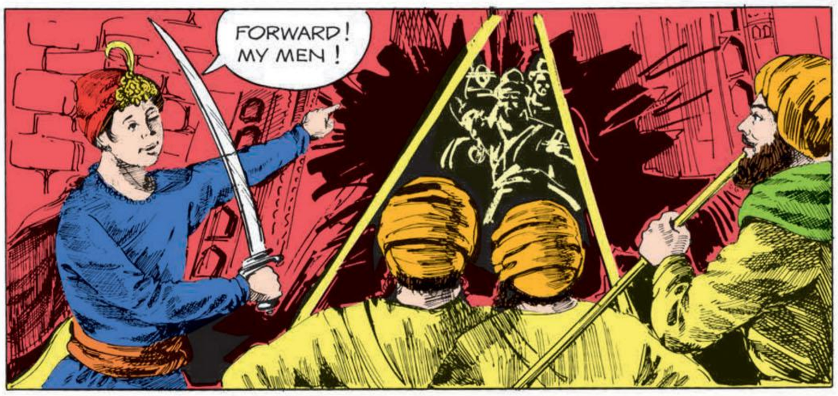

COME, MY BRAVE WARRIORS, LET US DEAL WITH THEM FIRST!

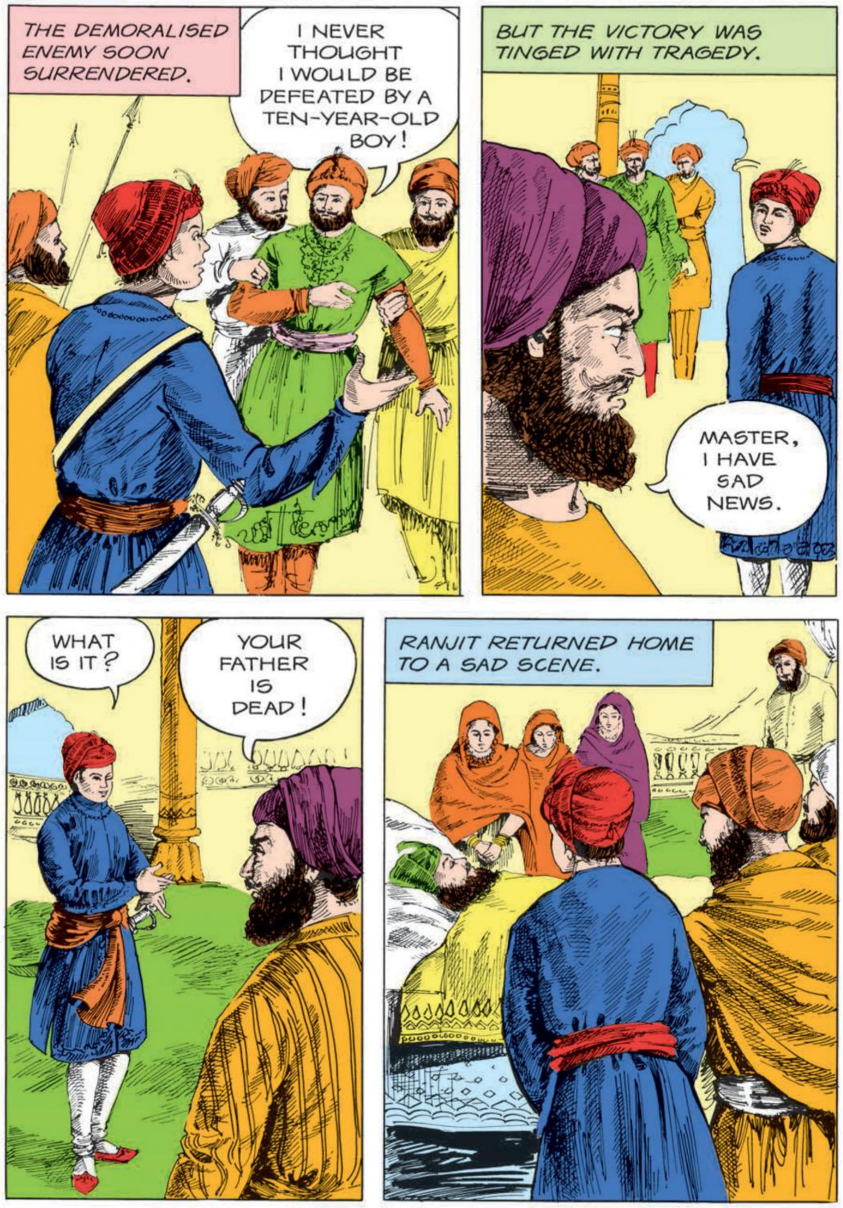

OUR LEADER IS A MERE BOY BUT HE FIGHTS LIKE A LION!

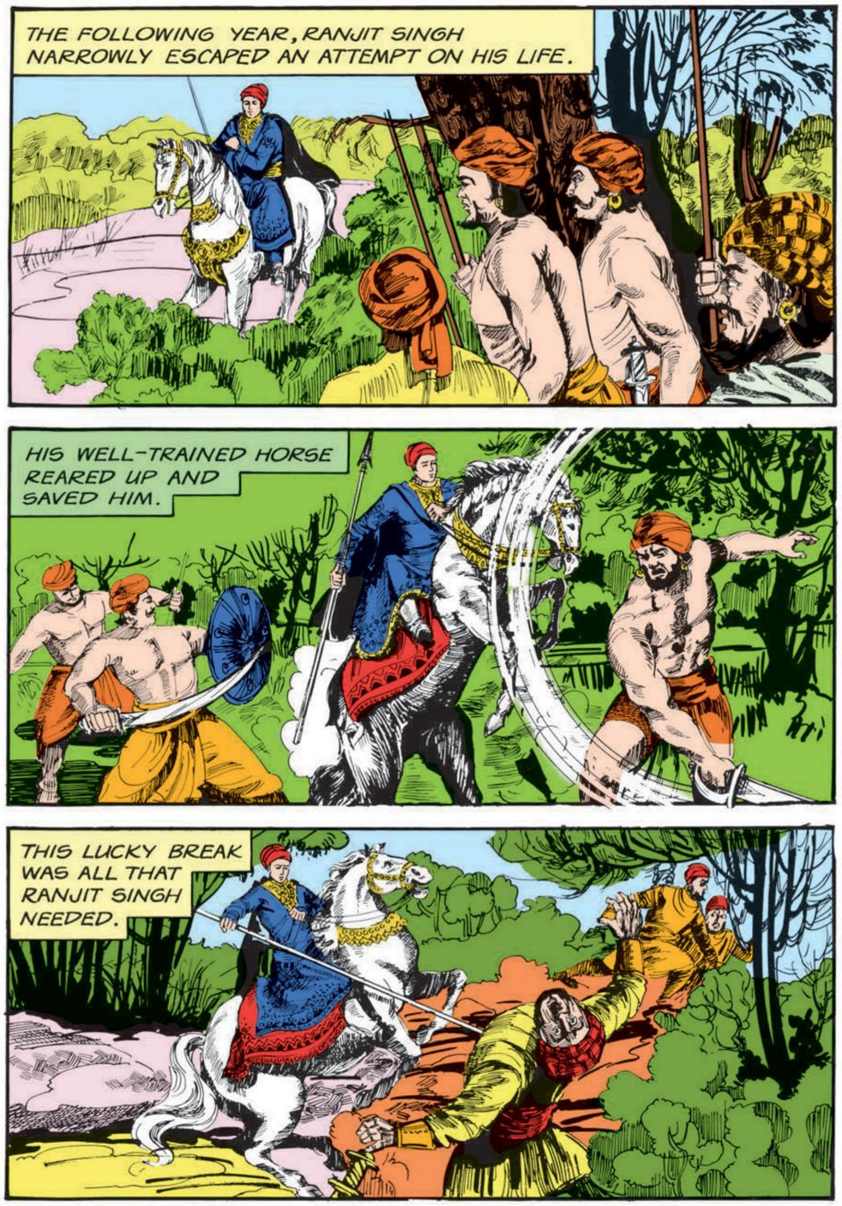

THE ENEMY WAS ROUTED.
VICTORY IS OURS!

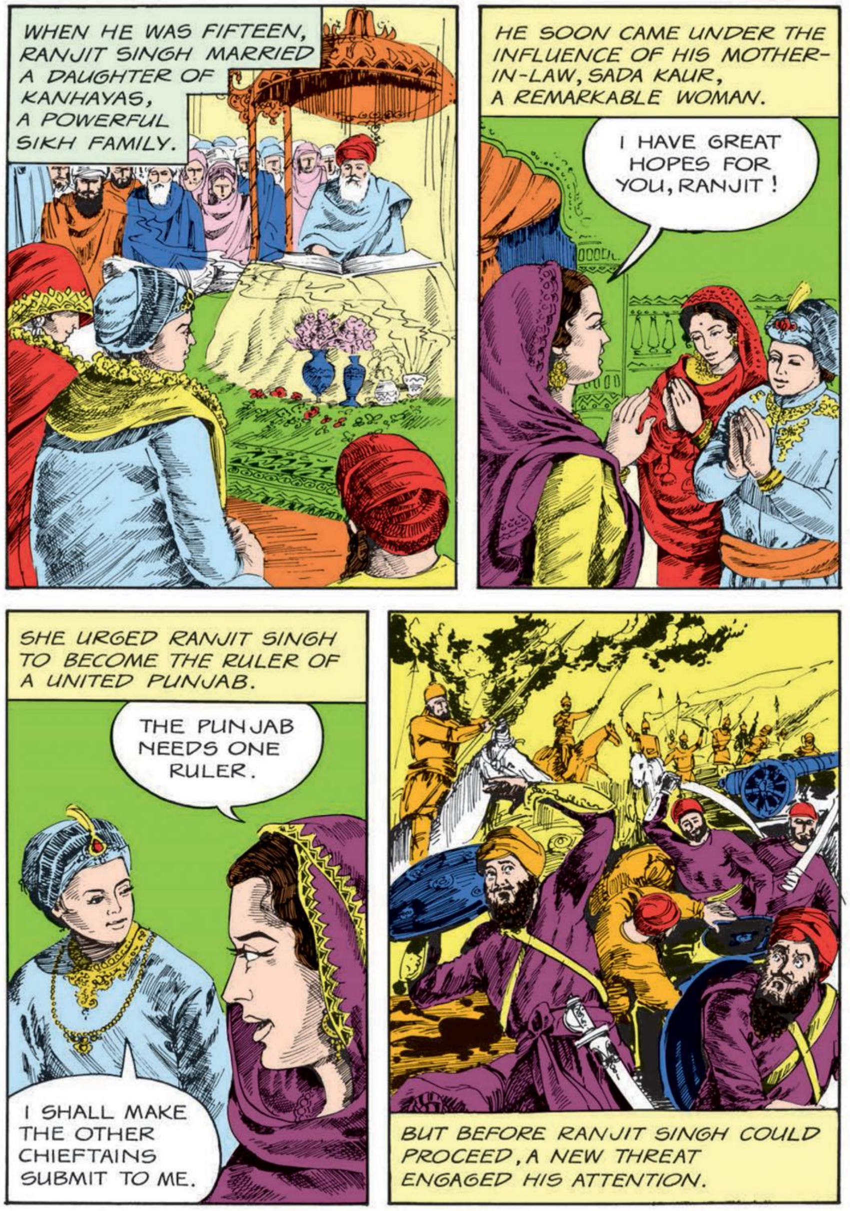

INSPIRED, RANJIT SINGH'S TROOPS RENEWED THE ASSAULT ON THE FORT.

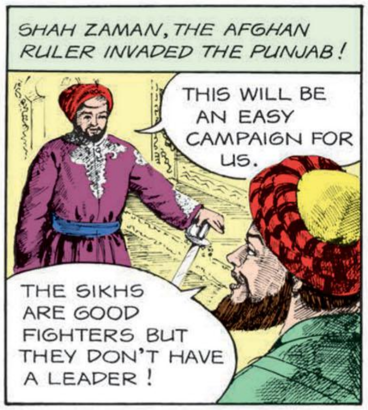

THE RESISTANCE WAS BITTER BUT FINALLY A BREACH WAS MADE.
THE CANNON HAS MADE A HOLE IN THE GATE. NOW IS OUR CHANCE!

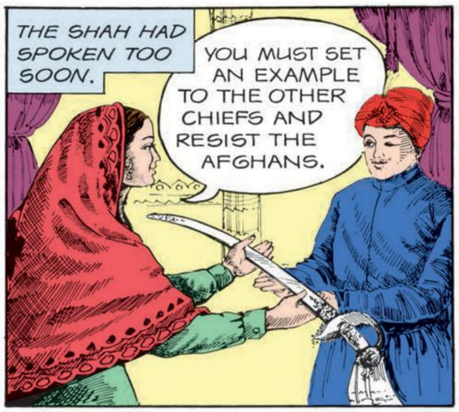

FORWARD! MY MEN!

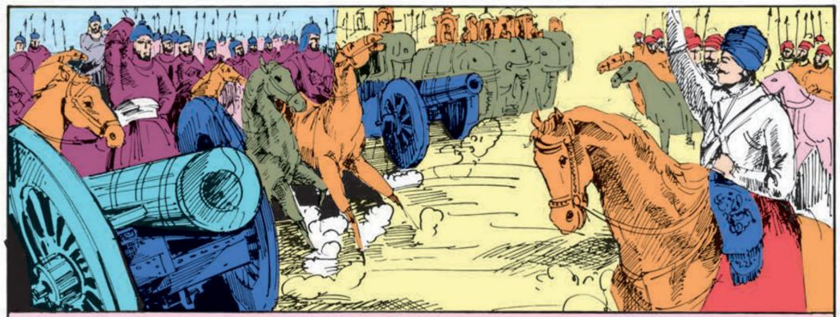

THE DEMORALISED ENEMY SOON SURRENDERED.
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE DEFEATED BY A TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY!
BUT THE VICTORY WAS TINGED WITH TRAGEDY.
MASTER, I HAVE SAD NEWS.
WHAT IS IT?
YOUR FATHER IS DEAD!
RANJIT RETURNED HOME TO A SAD SCENE.


THE FOLLOWING YEAR, RANJIT SINGH NARROWLY ESCAPED AN ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE.
HIS WELL-TRAINED HORSE REARED UP AND SAVED HIM.
THIS LUCKY BREAK WAS ALL THAT RANJIT SINGH NEEDED.

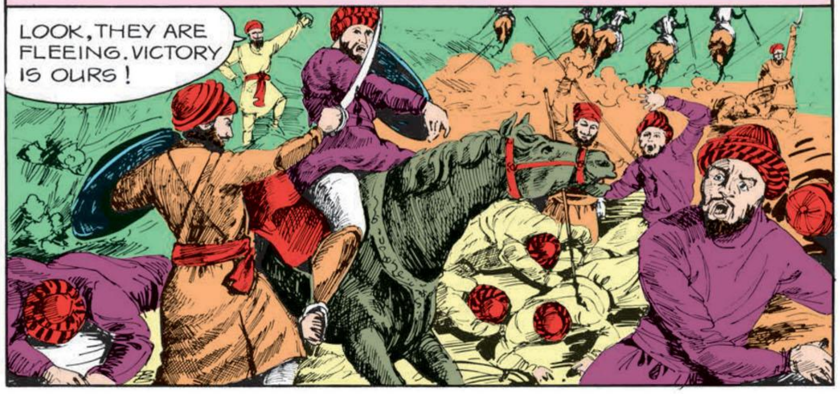

WHEN HE WAS FIFTEEN, RANJIT SINGH MARRIED A DAUGHTER OF KANHAYAS, A POWERFUL SIKH FAMILY.
HE SOON CAME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, SADA KAUR, A REMARKABLE WOMAN.
I HAVE GREAT HOPES FOR YOU, RANJIT!
SHE URGED RANJIT SINGH TO BECOME THE RULER OF A UNITED PUNJAB.
THE PUNJAB NEEDS ONE RULER.
I SHALL MAKE THE OTHER CHIEFTAINS SUBMIT TO ME.
BUT BEFORE RANJIT SINGH COULD PROCEED, A NEW THREAT ENGAGED HIS ATTENTION.

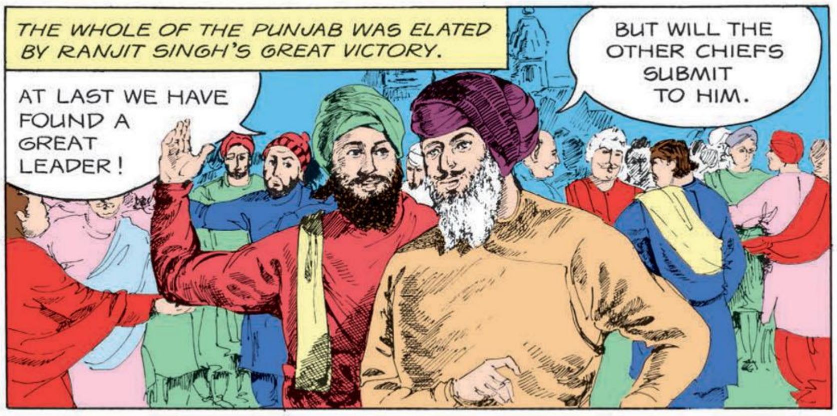

SHAH ZAMAN, THE AFGHAN RULER INVADED THE PUNJAB!
THIS WILL BE AN EASY CAMPAIGN FOR US.
THE SIKHS ARE GOOD FIGHTERS BUT THEY DON'T HAVE A LEADER!

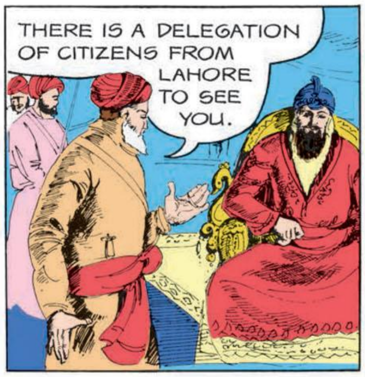

THE SHAH HAD SPOKEN TOO SOON.
YOU MUST SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE OTHER CHIEFS AND RESIST THE AFGHANS.

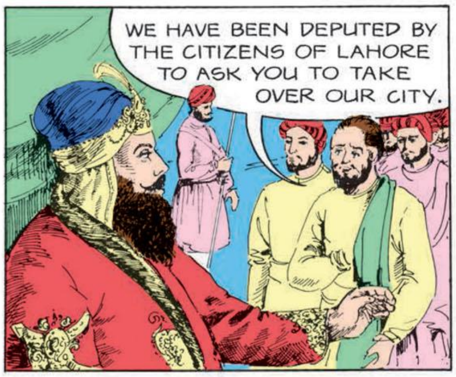


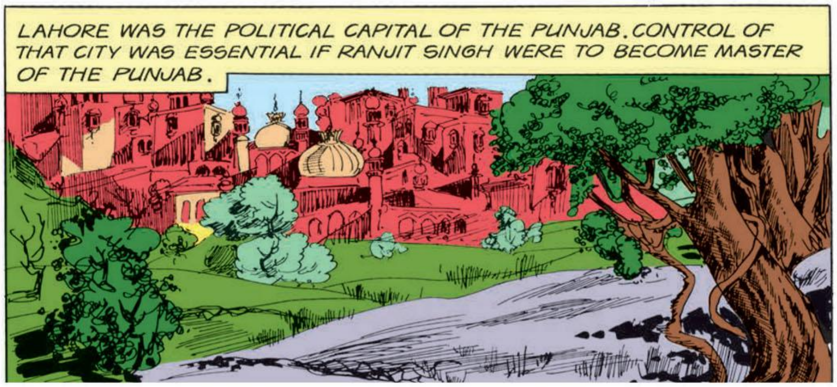
THOUGH HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED, RANJIT SINGH DECIDED TO FACE THE MIGHTY AFGHANS. THE OVER-CONFIDENT AFGHANS WERE BEATEN BY A DETERMINED OPPONENT.

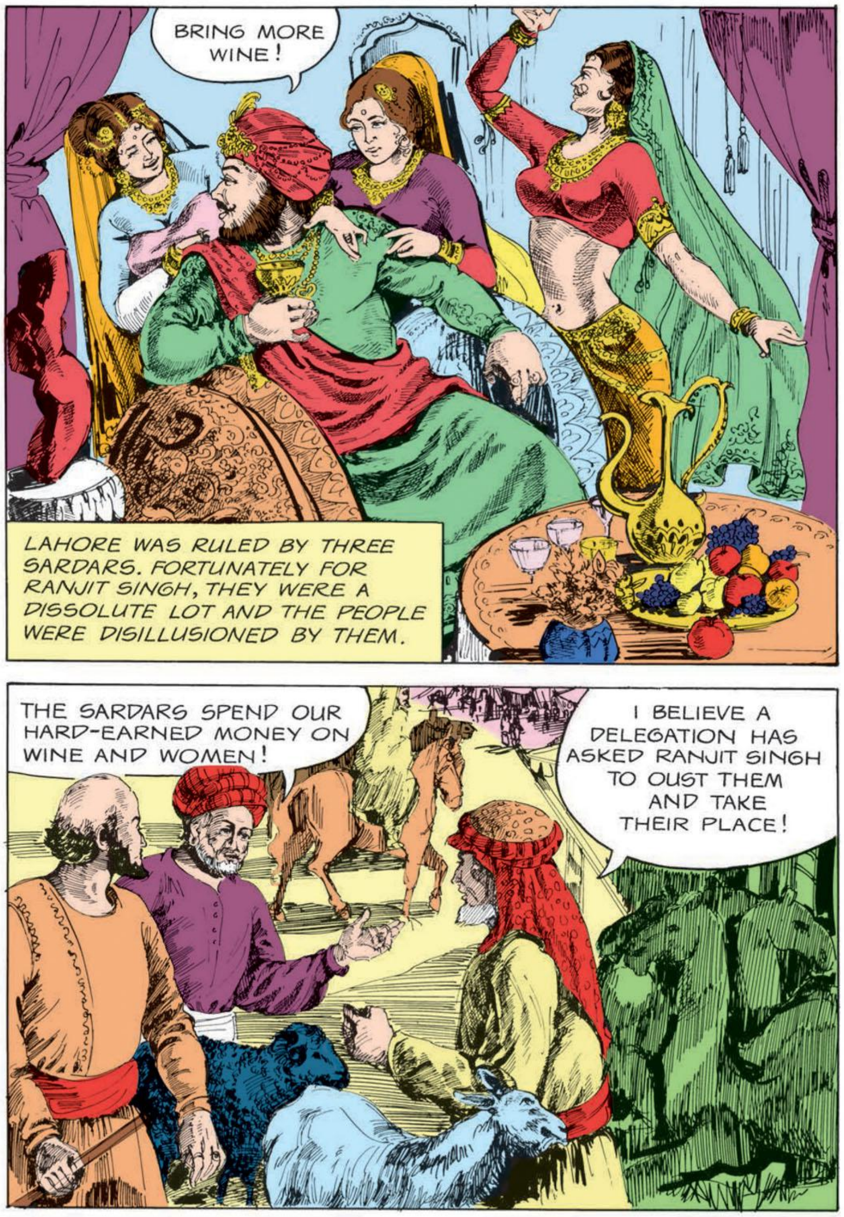

LOOK, THEY ARE FLEEING. VICTORY IS OURS!

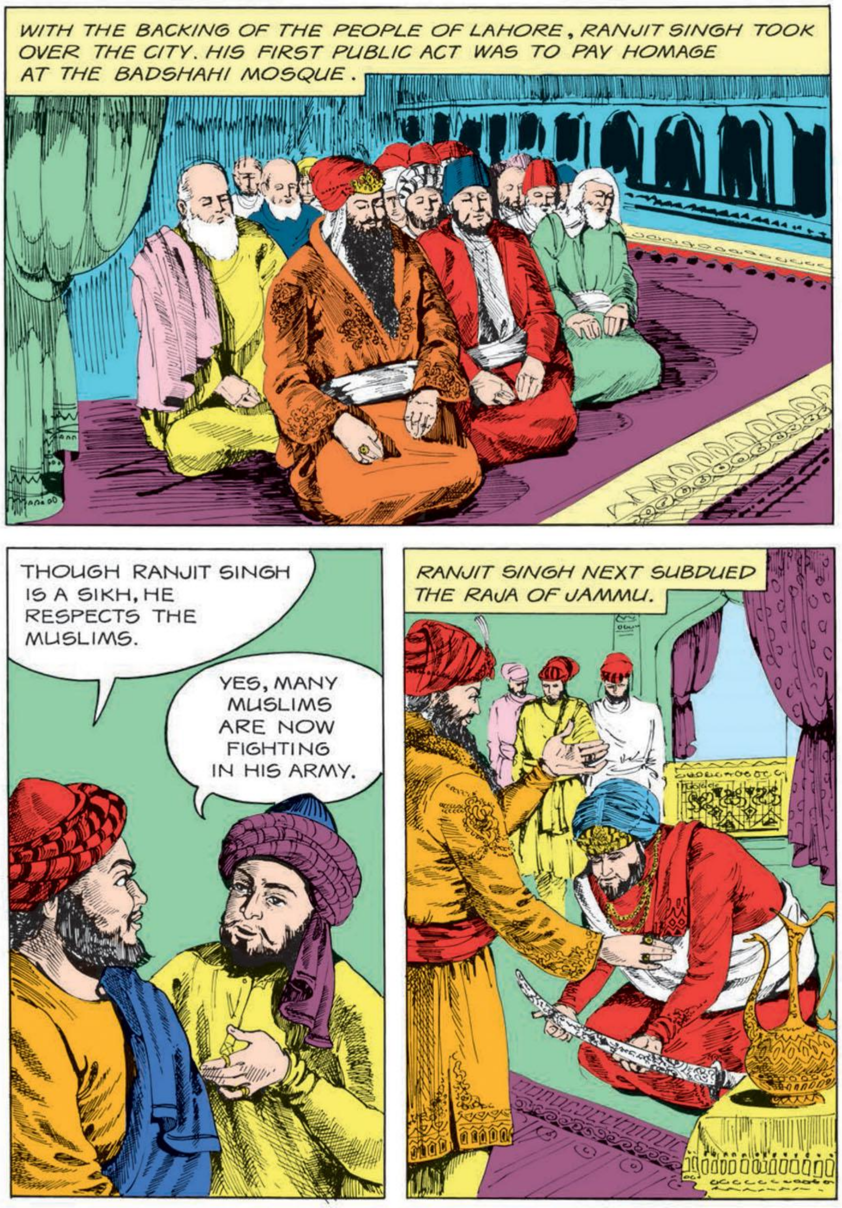

THE WHOLE OF THE PUNJAB WAS ELATED BY RANJIT SINGH'S GREAT VICTORY.
AT LAST WE HAVE FOUND A GREAT LEADER!
BUT WILL THE OTHER CHIEFS SUBMIT TO HIM.


THERE IS A DELEGATION OF CITIZENS FROM LAHORE TO SEE YOU.

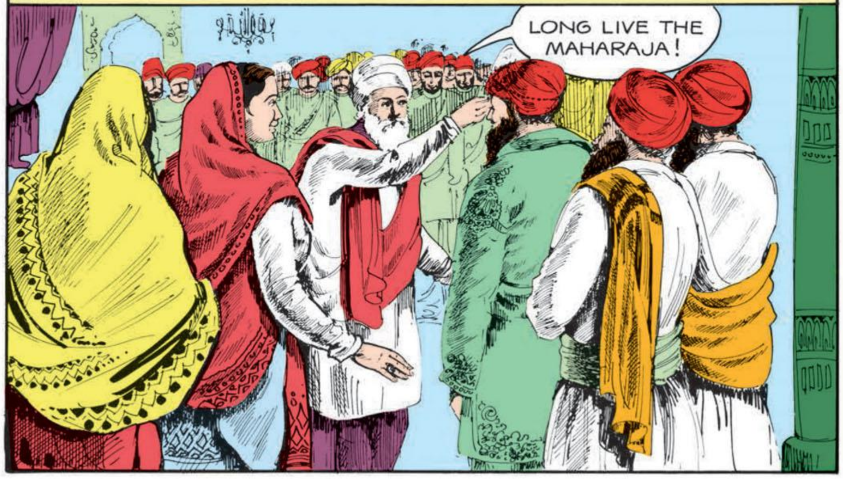

WE HAVE BEEN DEPUTED BY THE CITIZENS OF LAHORE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE OVER OUR CITY.


LAHORE WAS THE POLITICAL CAPITAL OF THE PUNJAB. CONTROL OF THAT CITY WAS ESSENTIAL IF RANJIT SINGH WERE TO BECOME MASTER OF THE PUNJAB.

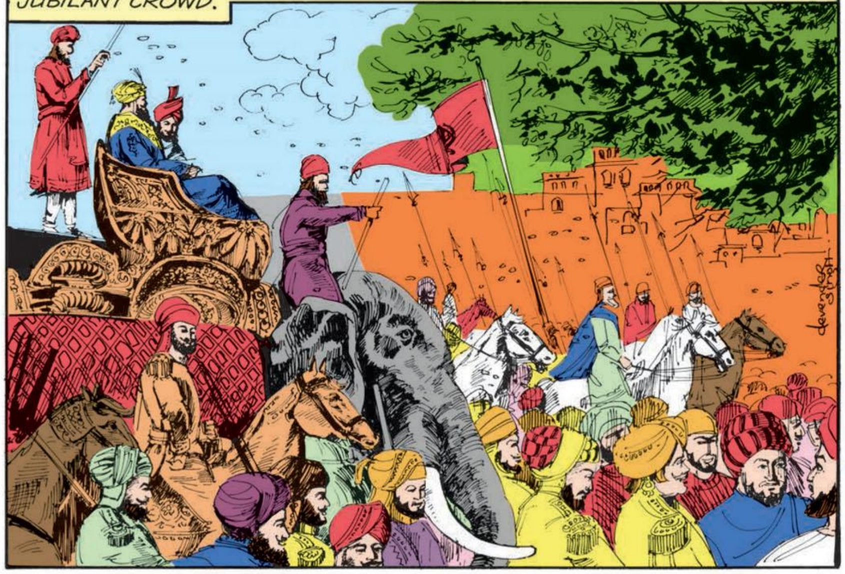

BRING MORE WINE!
LAHORE WAS RULED BY THREE SARDARS. FORTUNATELY FOR RANJIT SINGH, THEY WERE A DISSOLUTE LOT AND THE PEOPLE WERE DISILLUSIONED BY THEM.
THE SARDARS SPEND OUR HARD-EARNED MONEY ON WINE AND WOMEN!
I BELIEVE A DELEGATION HAS ASKED RANJIT SINGH TO OUST THEM AND TAKE THEIR PLACE!

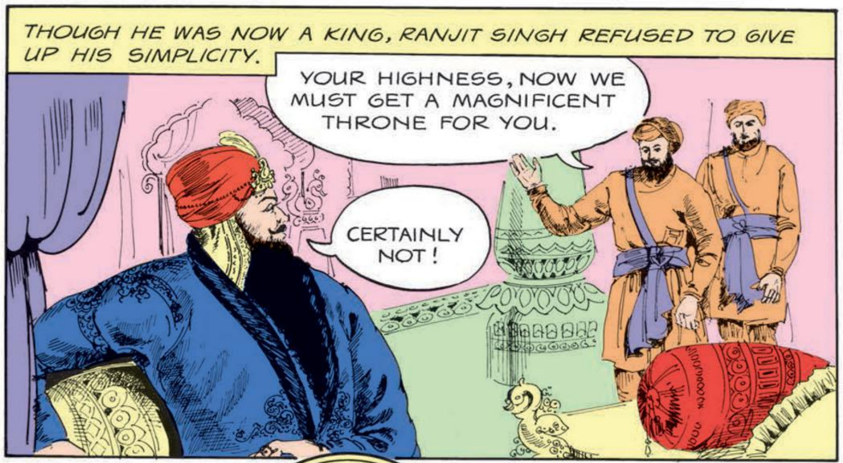

WITH THE BACKING OF THE PEOPLE OF LAHORE, RANJIT SINGH TOOK OVER THE CITY. HIS FIRST PUBLIC ACT WAS TO PAY HOMAGE AT THE BADSHAHI MOSQUE.
THOUGH RANJIT SINGH IS A SIKH, HE RESPECTS THE MUSLIMS.
YES, MANY MUSLIMS ARE NOW FIGHTING IN HIS ARMY.
RANJIT SINGH NEXT SUBDUED THE RAJA OF JAMMU.

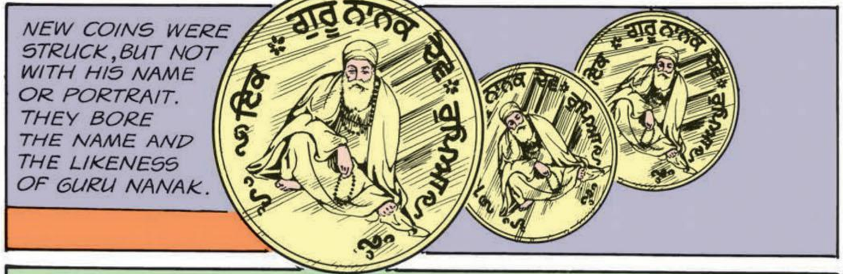
ON BAISAKHI (APRIL 12), 1801, RANJIT SINGH WAS DECLARED MAHARAJA OF THE PUNJAB.

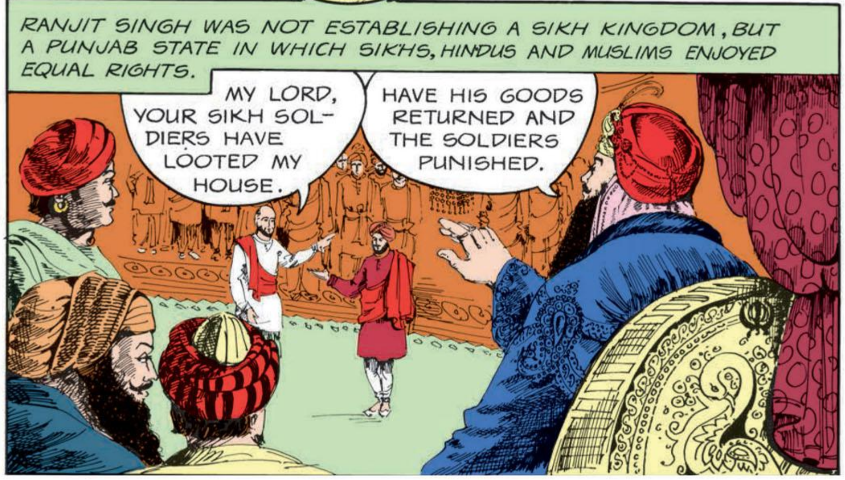

LONG LIVE THE MAHARAJA!

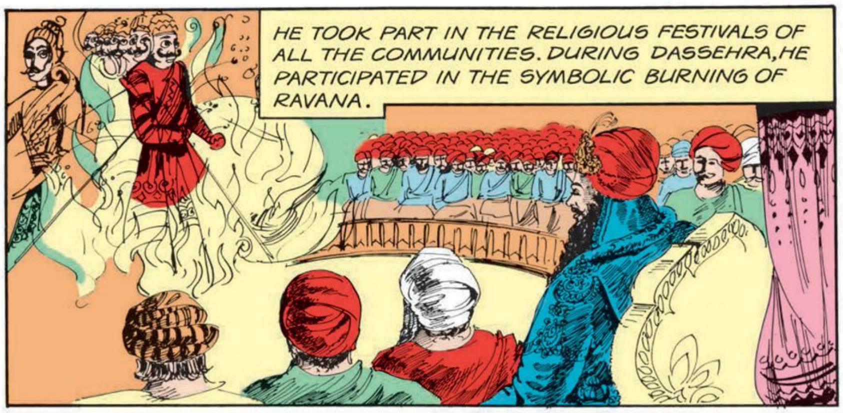
AFTER HIS CORONATION, RANJIT SINGH RODE ON AN ELEPHANT THROUGH THE STREETS OF LAHORE, SHOWERING COINS ON THE JUBILANT CROWD.



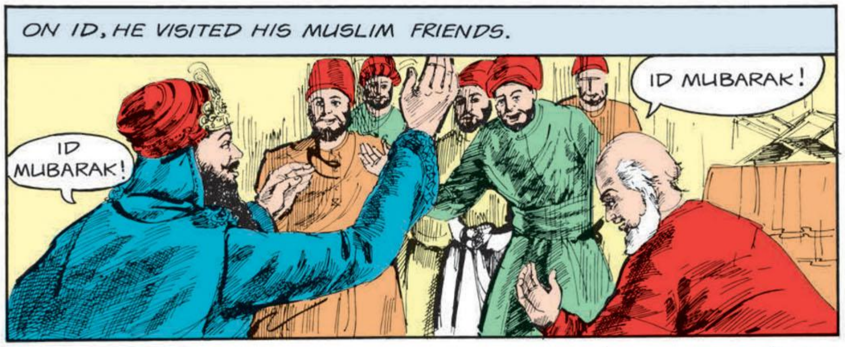

THOUGH HE WAS NOW A KING, RANJIT SINGH REFUSED TO GIVE UP HIS SIMPLICITY.
YOUR HIGHNESS, NOW WE MUST GET A MAGNIFICENT THRONE FOR YOU.
CERTAINLY NOT!


NEW COINS WERE STRUCK, BUT NOT WITH HIS NAME OR PORTRAIT. THEY BORE THE NAME AND THE LIKENESS OF GURU NANAK.


RANJIT SINGH WAS NOT ESTABLISHING A SIKH KINGDOM, BUT A PUNJAB STATE IN WHICH SIKHS, HINDUS AND MUSLIMS ENJOYED EQUAL RIGHTS.
MY LORD, YOUR SIKH SOLDIERS HAVE LOOTED MY HOUSE.
HAVE HIS GOODS RETURNED AND THE SOLDIERS PUNISHED.

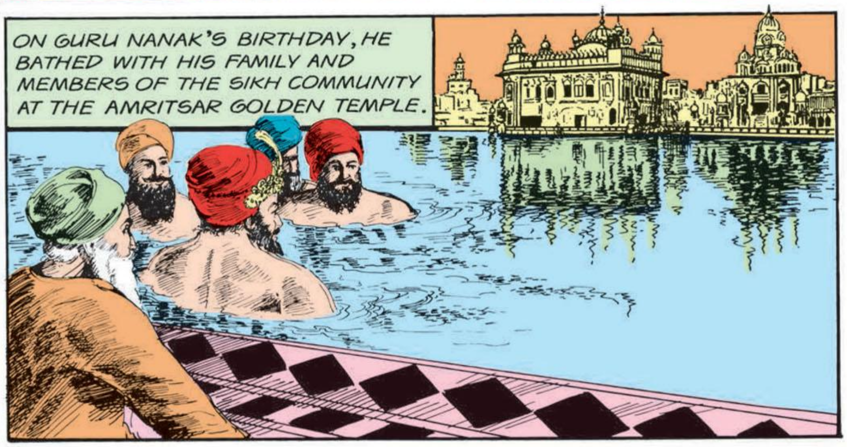


HE TOOK PART IN THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS OF ALL THE COMMUNITIES. DURING DASSEHRA, HE PARTICIPATED IN THE SYMBOLIC BURNING OF RAVANA.

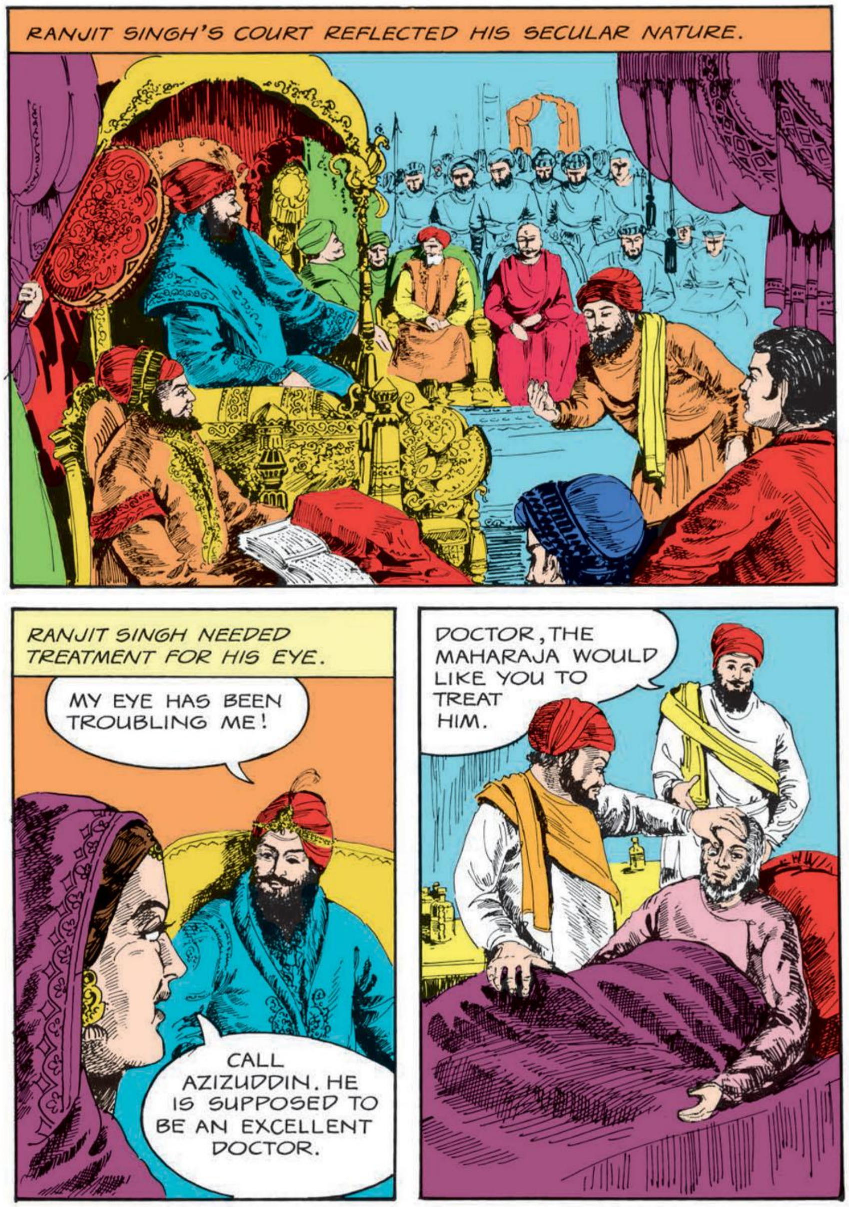


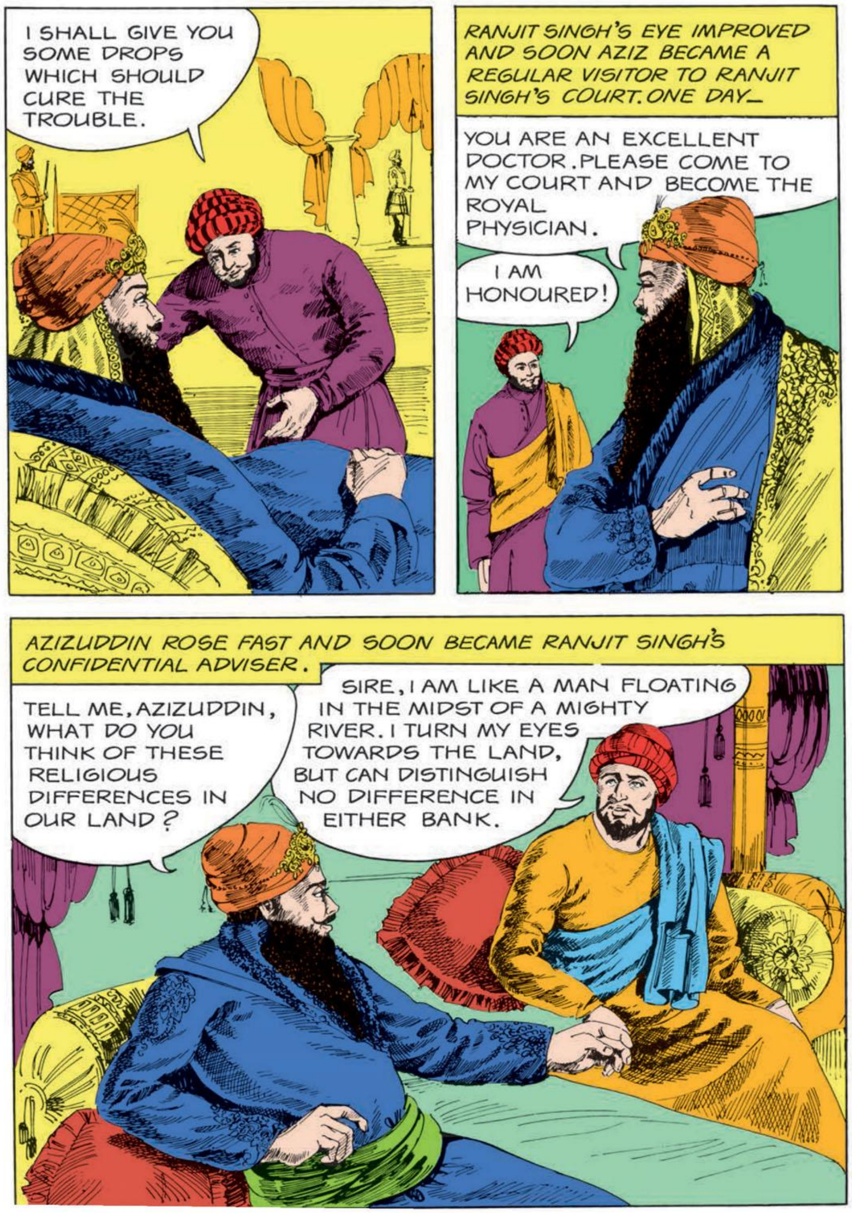
ON ID, HE VISITED HIS MUSLIM FRIENDS.

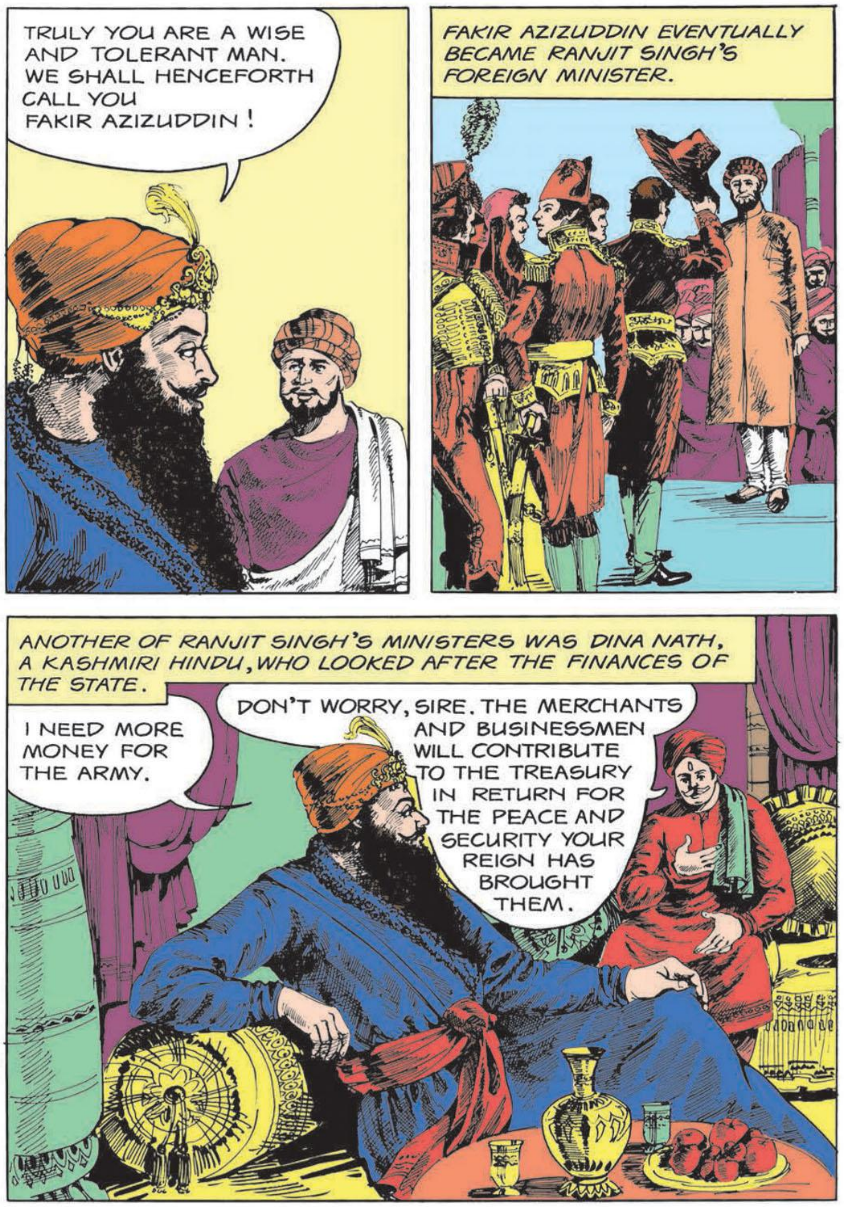
ID MUBARAK!
ID MUBARAK!

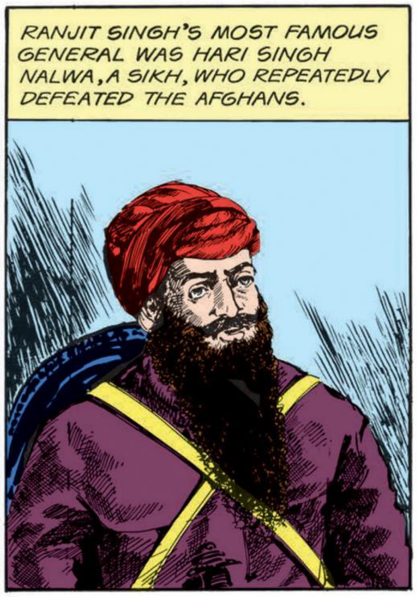


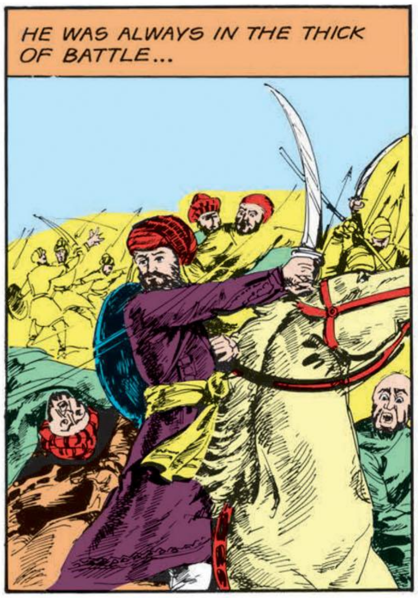
ON GURU NANAK'S BIRTHDAY, HE BATHED WITH HIS FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF THE SIKH COMMUNITY AT THE AMRITSAR GOLDEN TEMPLE.

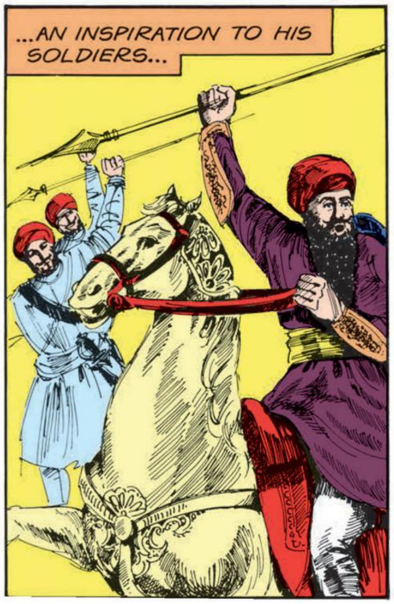

RANJIT SINGH'S COURT REFLECTED HIS SECULAR NATURE.
RANJIT SINGH NEEDED TREATMENT FOR HIS EYE.
MY EYE HAS BEEN TROUBLING ME!
CALL AZIZUDDIN. HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE AN EXCELLENT DOCTOR.
DOCTOR, THE MAHARAJA WOULD LIKE YOU TO TREAT HIM.

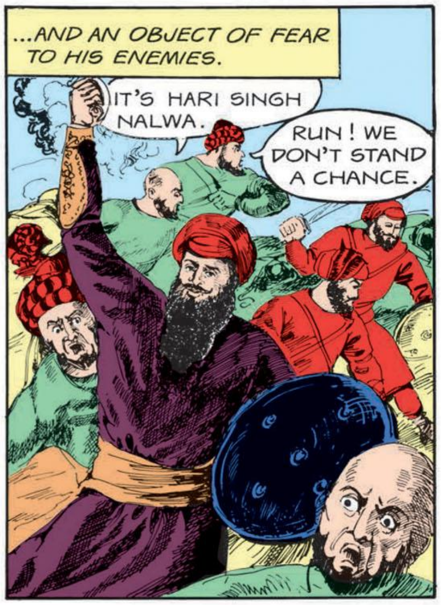

I SHALL GIVE YOU SOME DROPS WHICH SHOULD CURE THE TROUBLE.
RANJIT SINGH'S EYE IMPROVED AND SOON AZIZ BECAME A REGULAR VISITOR TO RANJIT SINGH'S COURT. ONE DAY—
YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT DOCTOR. PLEASE COME TO MY COURT AND BECOME THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN.
I AM HONOURED!
AZIZUDDIN ROSE FAST AND SOON BECAME RANJIT SINGH'S CONFIDENTIAL ADVISER.
TELL ME, AZIZUDDIN, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES IN OUR LAND?
SIRE, I AM LIKE A MAN FLOATING IN THE MIDST OF A MIGHTY RIVER. I TURN MY EYES TOWARDS THE LAND, BUT CAN DISTINGUISH NO DIFFERENCE IN EITHER BANK.

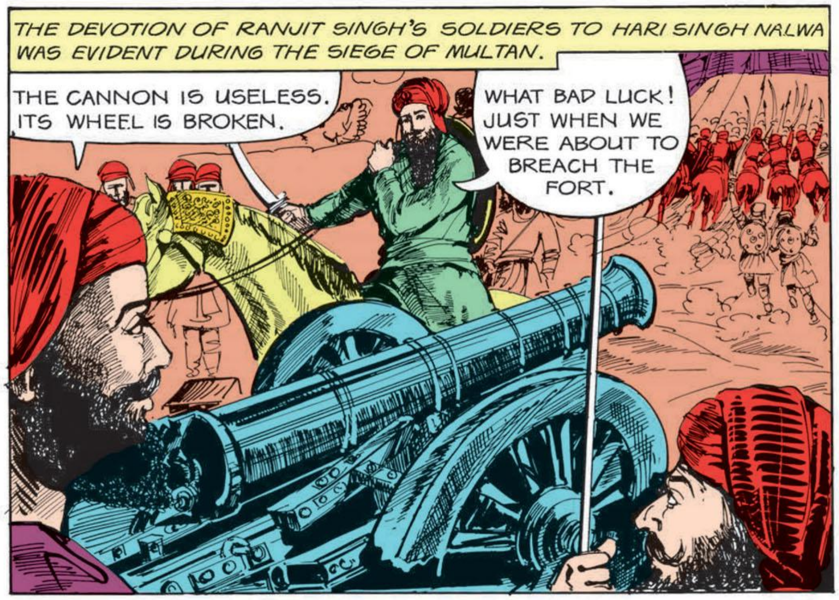

TRULY YOU ARE A WISE AND TOLERANT MAN. WE SHALL HENCEFORTH CALL YOU FAKIR AZIZUDDIN !
FAKIR AZIZUDDIN EVENTUALLY BECAME RANJIT SINGH'S FOREIGN MINISTER.
ANOTHER OF RANJIT SINGH'S MINISTERS WAS DINA NATH, A KASHMIRI HINDU, WHO LOOKED AFTER THE FINANCES OF THE STATE.
I NEED MORE MONEY FOR THE ARMY.
DON'T WORRY, SIRE. THE MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSMEN WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE TREASURY IN RETURN FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY YOUR REIGN HAS BROUGHT THEM.

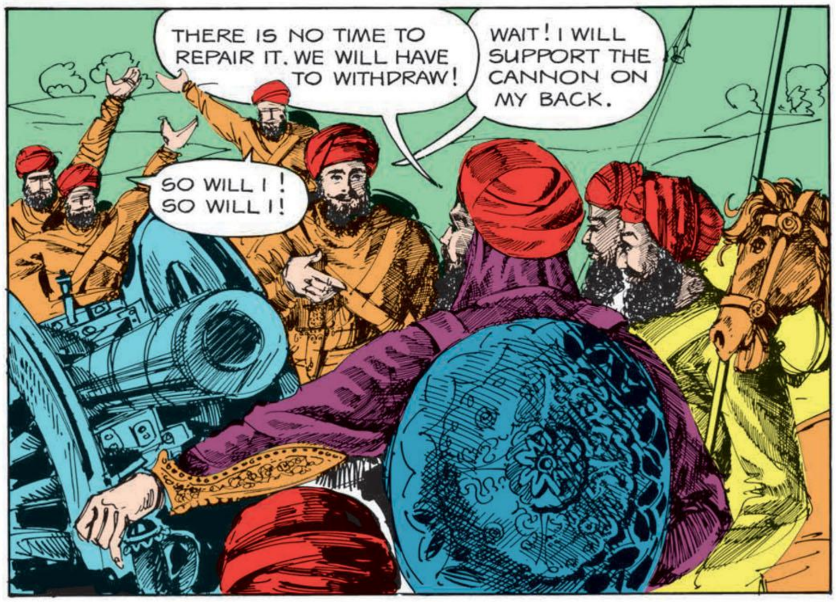

RANJIT SINGH'S MOST FAMOUS GENERAL WAS HARI SINGH NALWA, A SIKH, WHO REPEATEDLY DEFEATED THE AFGHANS.

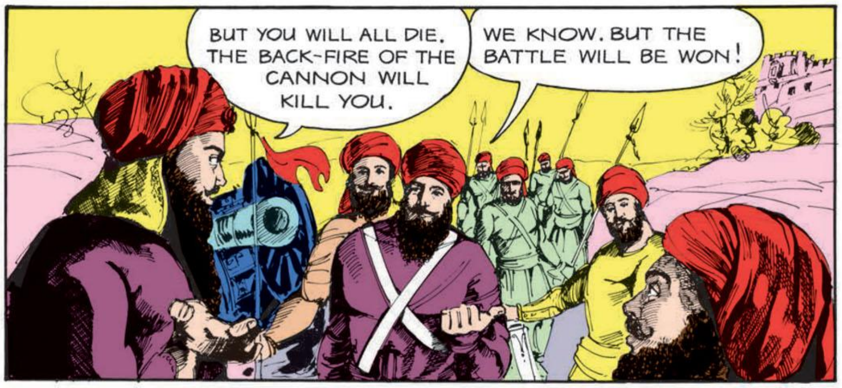

HE WAS ALWAYS IN THE THICK OF BATTLE...

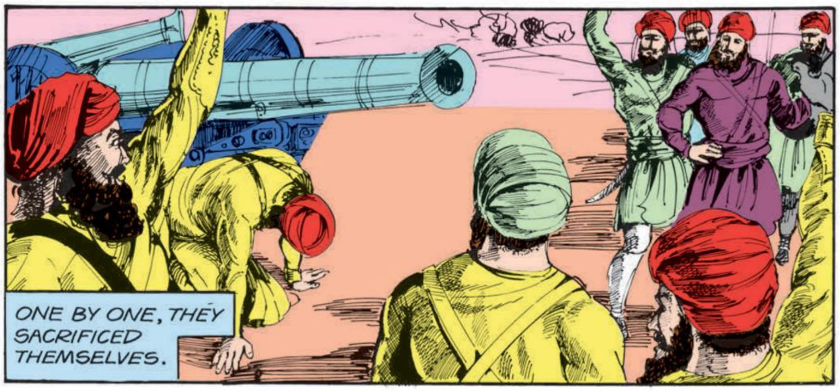

...AN INSPIRATION TO HIS SOLDIERS...

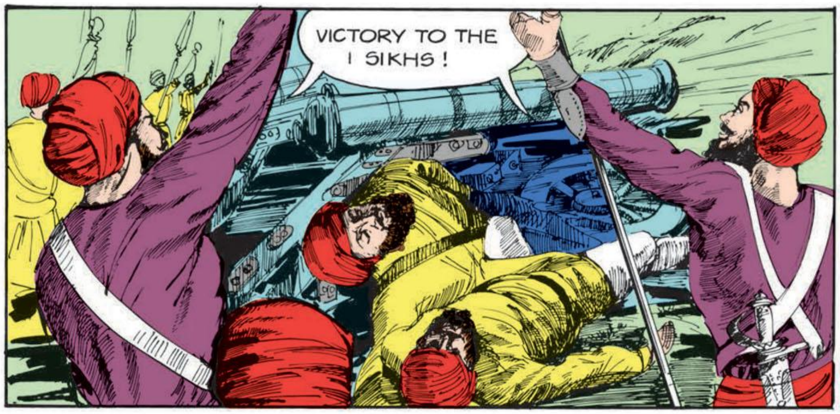

...AND AN OBJECT OF FEAR TO HIS ENEMIES.
IT'S HARI SINGH NALWA.
RUN! WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

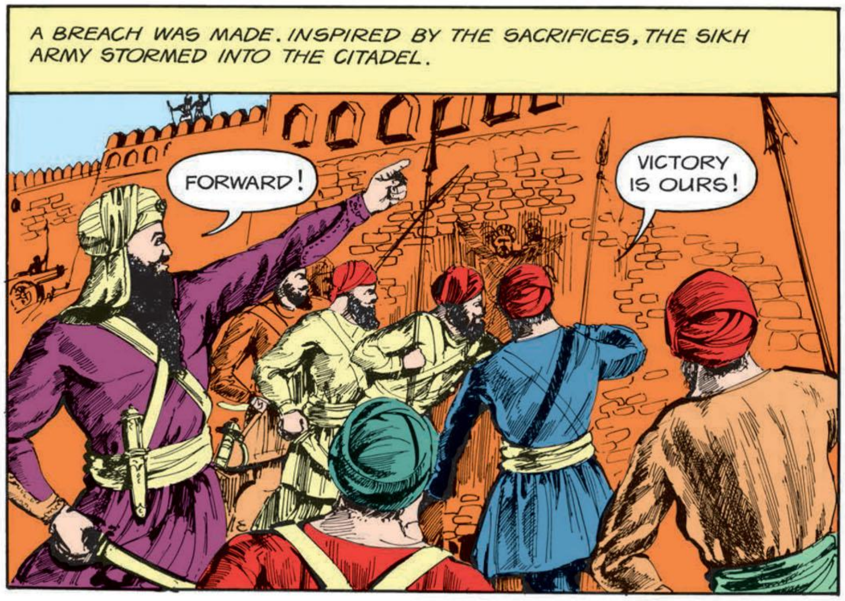

THE DEVOTION OF RANJIT SINGH'S SOLDIERS TO HARI SINGH NALWA WAS EVIDENT DURING THE SIEGE OF MULTAN.
THE CANNON IS USELESS. ITS WHEEL IS BROKEN.
WHAT BAD LUCK! JUST WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO BREACH THE FORT.

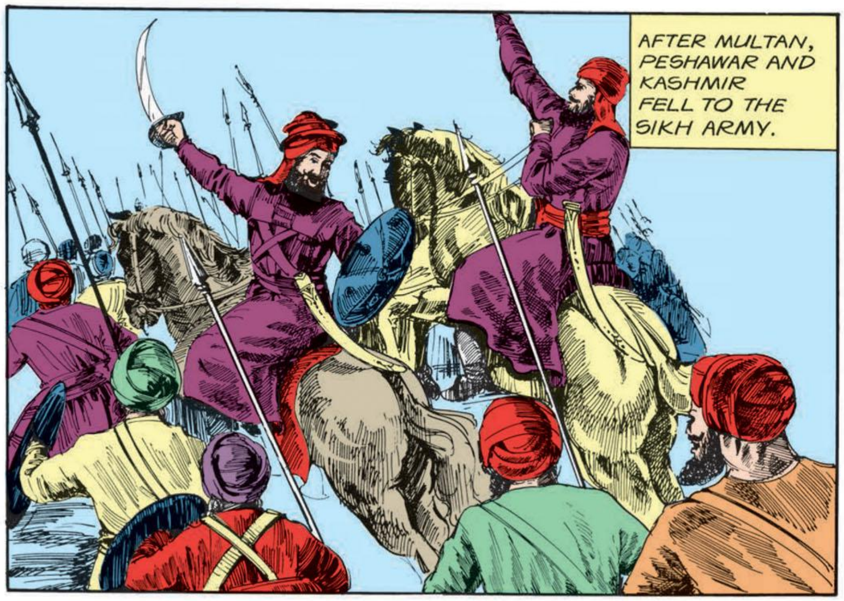

THERE IS NO TIME TO REPAIR IT. WE WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW!
WAIT! I WILL SUPPORT THE CANNON ON MY BACK.
SO WILL I! SO WILL I!

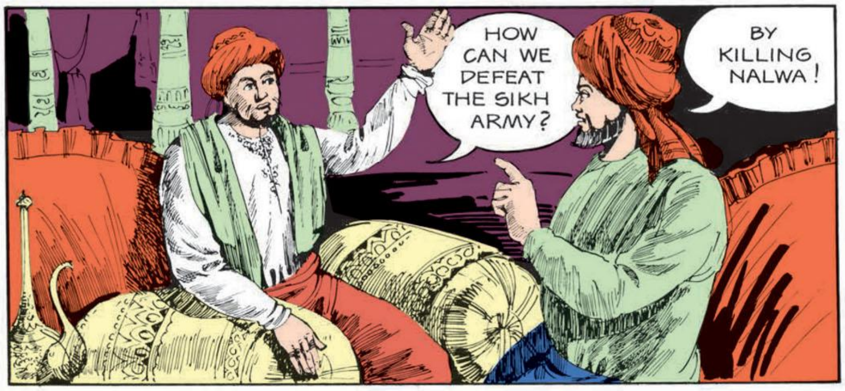

BUT YOU WILL ALL DIE. THE BACK-FIRE OF THE CANNON WILL KILL YOU.
WE KNOW. BUT THE BATTLE WILL BE WON!

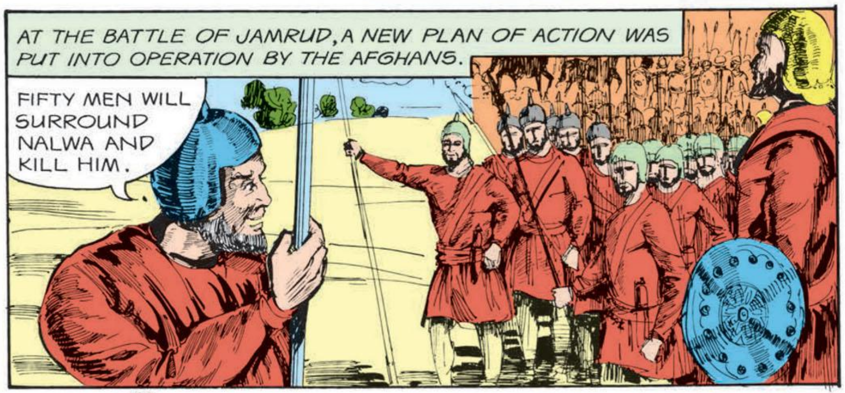

ONE BY ONE, THEY SACRIFICED THEMSELVES.

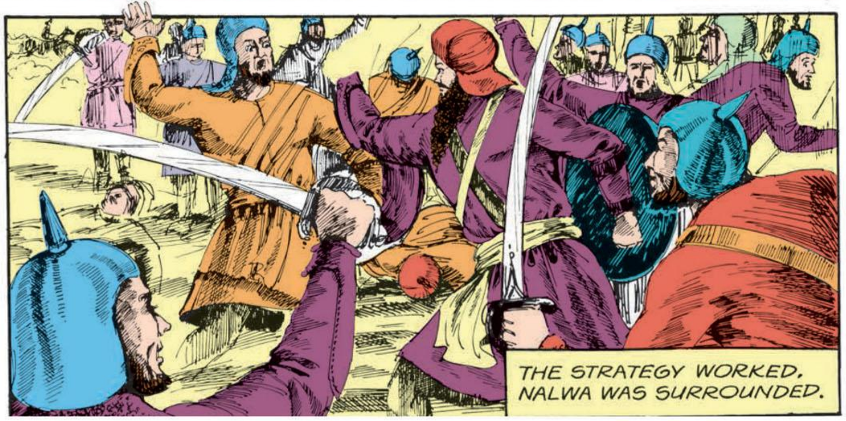

VICTORY TO THE SIKHS!

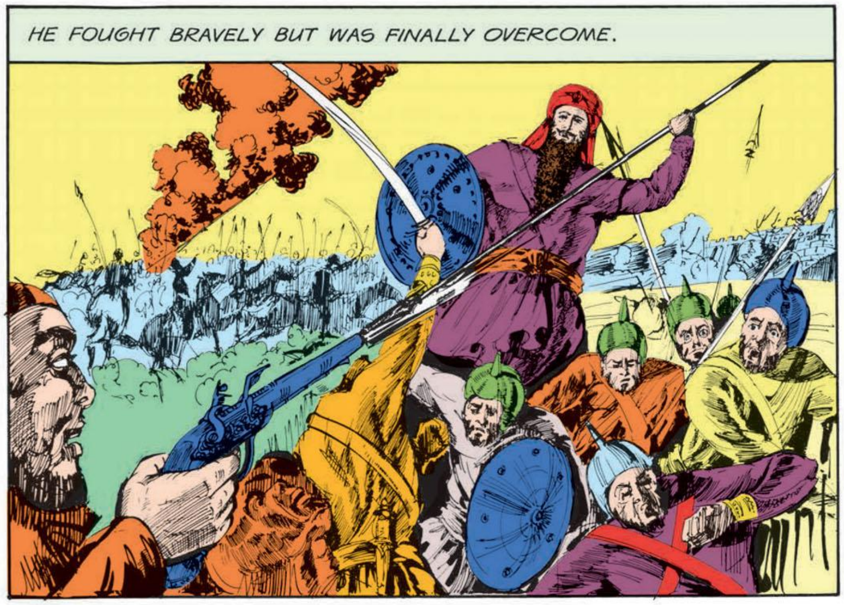

A BREACH WAS MADE. INSPIRED BY THE SACRIFICES, THE SIKH ARMY STORMED INTO THE CITADEL.
FORWARD!
VICTORY IS OURS!

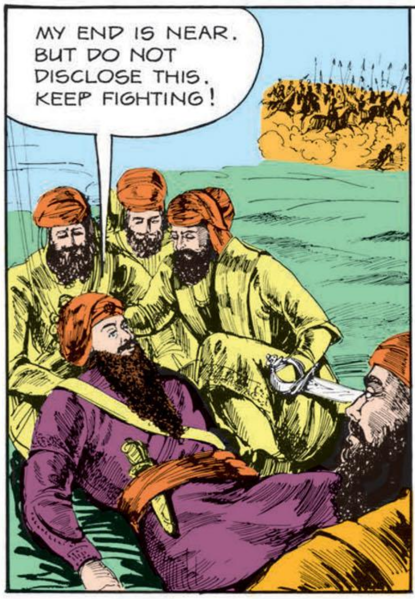

AFTER MULTAN, PESHAWAR AND KASHMIR FELL TO THE SIKH ARMY.

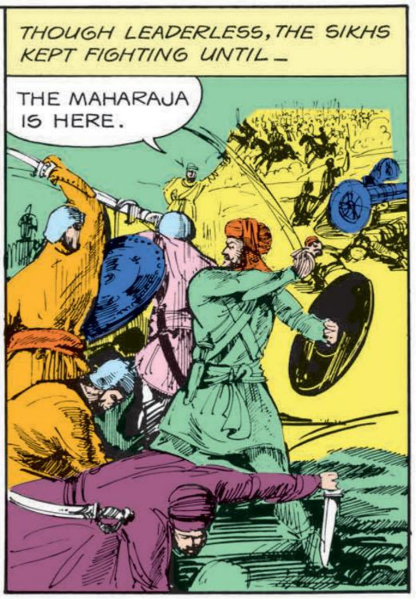

HOW CAN WE DEFEAT THE SIKH ARMY?
BY KILLING NALWA!

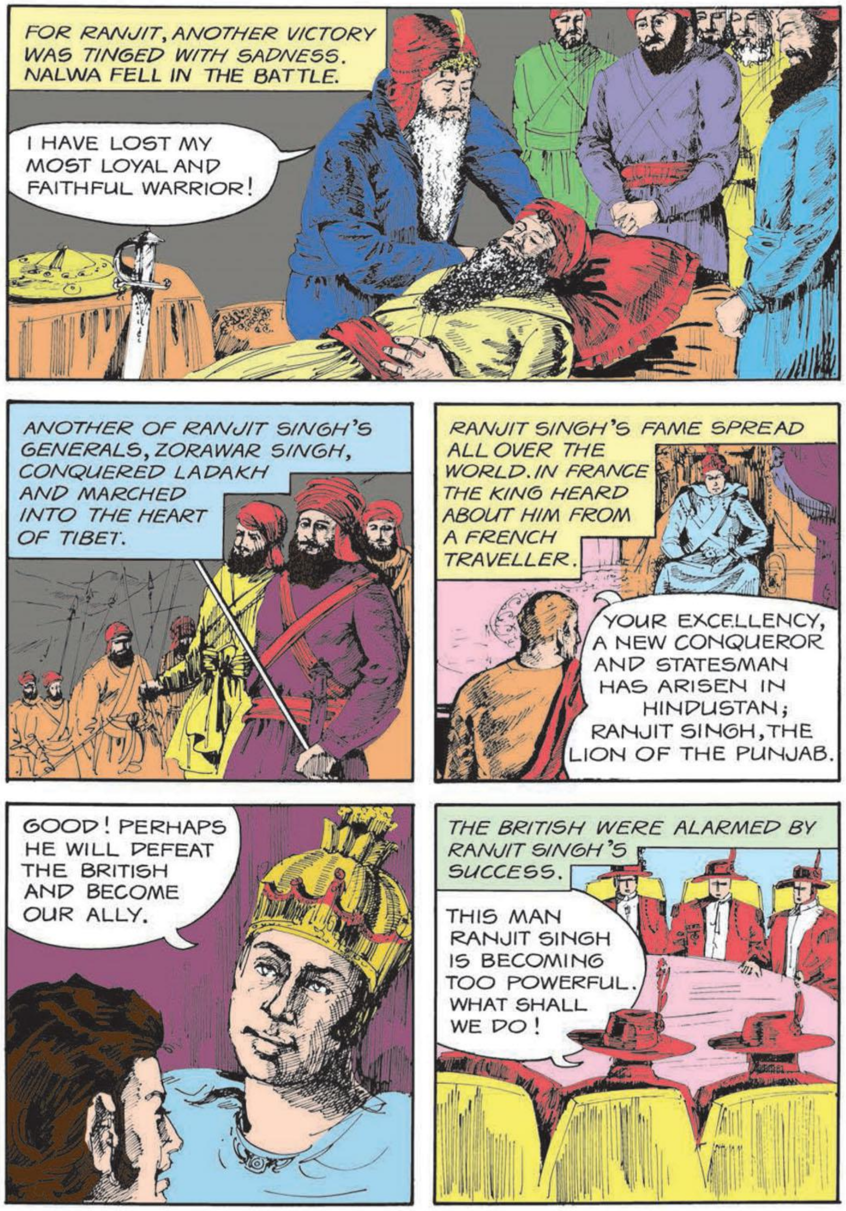

AT THE BATTLE OF JAMRUD, A NEW PLAN OF ACTION WAS PUT INTO OPERATION BY THE AFGHANS.
FIFTY MEN WILL SURROUND NALWA AND KILL HIM.

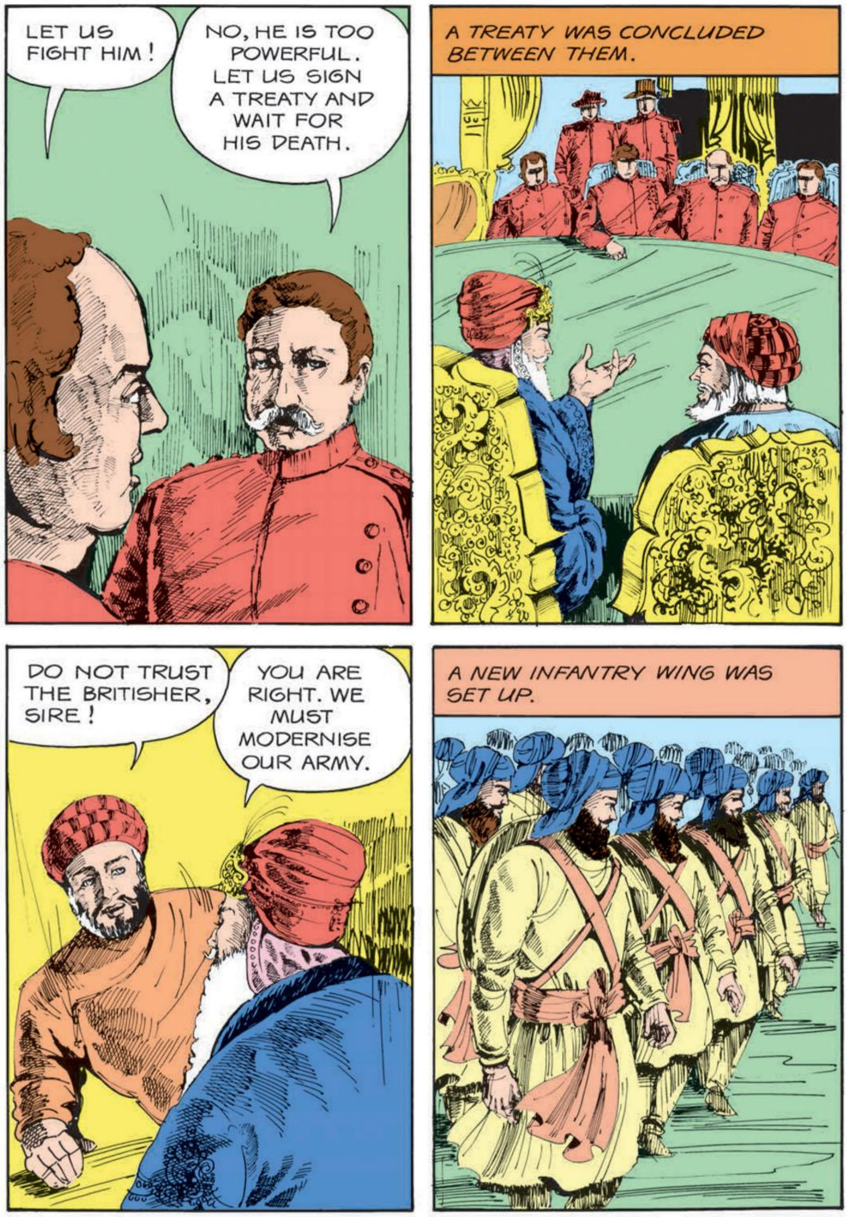

THE STRATEGY WORKED. NALWA WAS SURROUNDED.

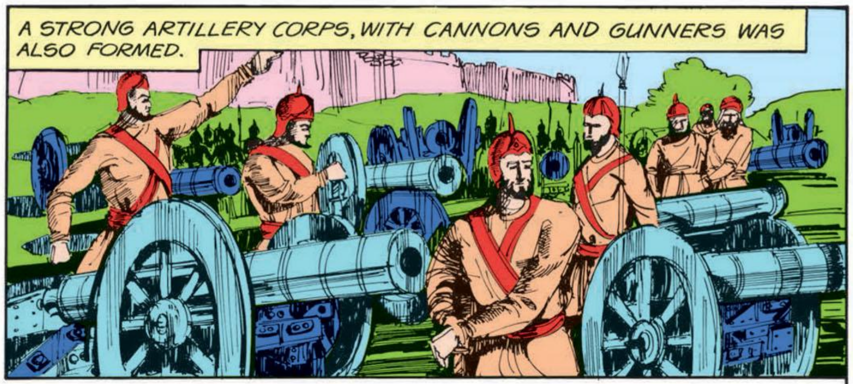

HE FOUGHT BRAVELY BUT WAS FINALLY OVERCOME.

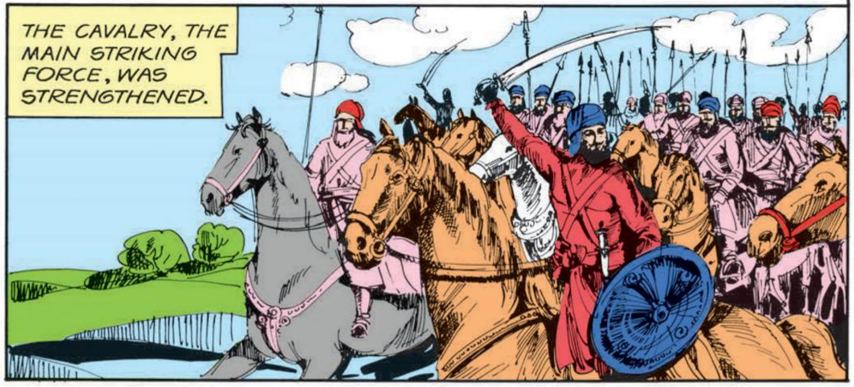

MY END IS NEAR. BUT DO NOT DISCLOSE THIS. KEEP FIGHTING!

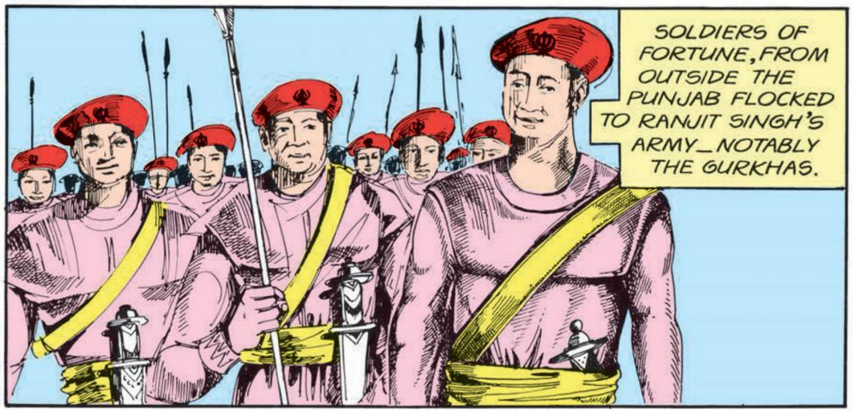

THOUGH LEADERLESS, THE SIKHS KEPT FIGHTING UNTIL –
THE MAHARAJA IS HERE.

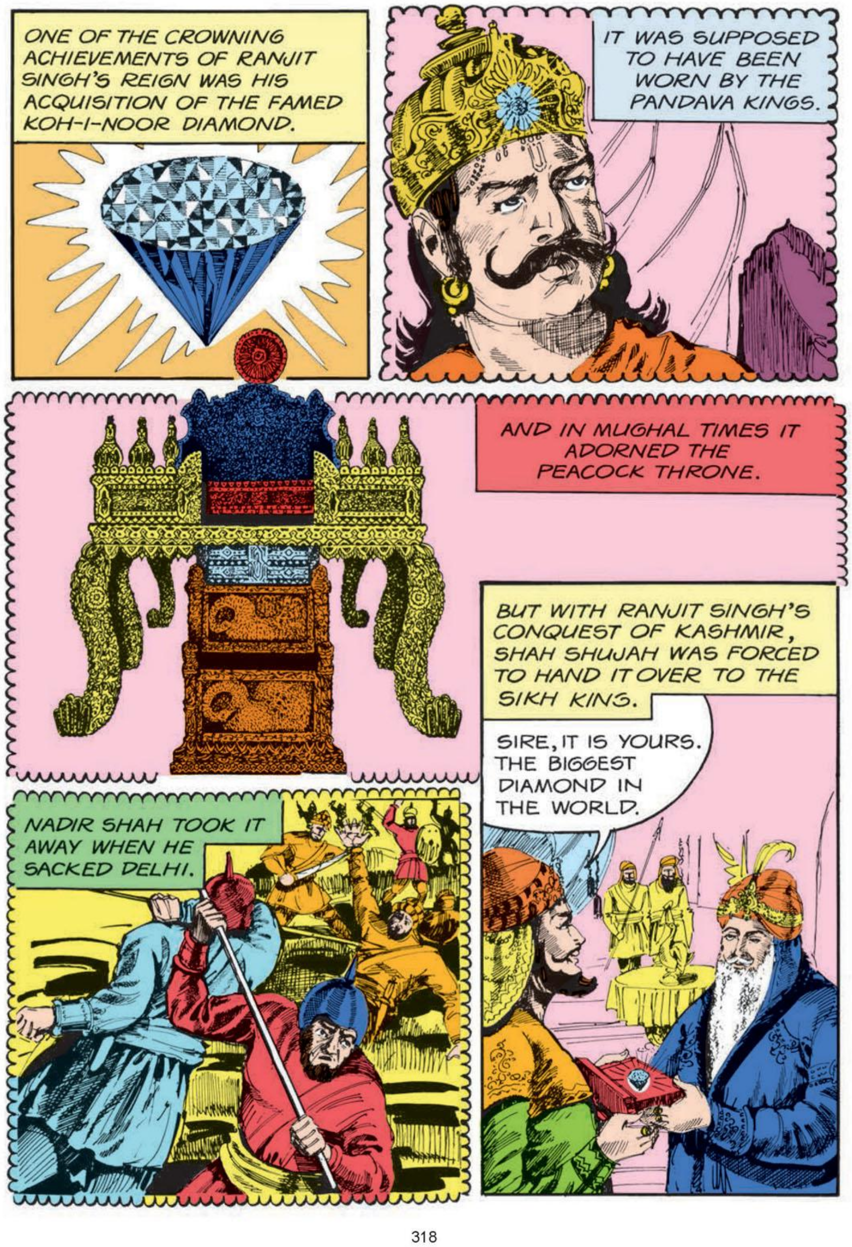

FOR RANJIT, ANOTHER VICTORY WAS TINGED WITH SADNESS. NALWA FELL IN THE BATTLE.
I HAVE LOST MY MOST LOYAL AND FAITHFUL WARRIOR!
ANOTHER OF RANJIT SINGH'S GENERALS, ZORAWAR SINGH, CONQUERED LADAKH AND MARCHED INTO THE HEART OF TIBET.
RANJIT SINGH'S FAME SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD. IN FRANCE THE KING HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM A FRENCH TRAVELLER.
YOUR EXCELLENCY, A NEW CONQUEROR AND STATESMAN HAS ARISEN IN HINDUSTAN; RANJIT SINGH, THE LION OF THE PUNJAB.
GOOD! PERHAPS HE WILL DEFEAT THE BRITISH AND BECOME OUR ALLY.
THE BRITISH WERE ALARMED BY RANJIT SINGH'S SUCCESS.
THIS MAN RANJIT SINGH IS BECOMING TOO POWERFUL. WHAT SHALL WE DO!

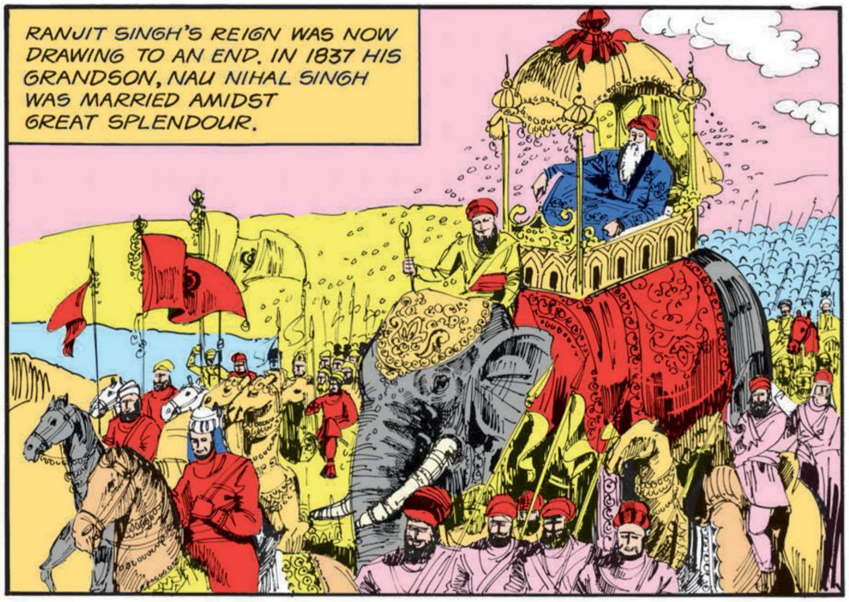

LET US FIGHT HIM!
NO, HE IS TOO POWERFUL. LET US SIGN A TREATY AND WAIT FOR HIS DEATH.
A TREATY WAS CONCLUDED BETWEEN THEM.
DO NOT TRUST THE BRITISHER, SIRE!
YOU ARE RIGHT. WE MUST MODERNISE OUR ARMY.
A NEW INFANTRY WING WAS SET UP.

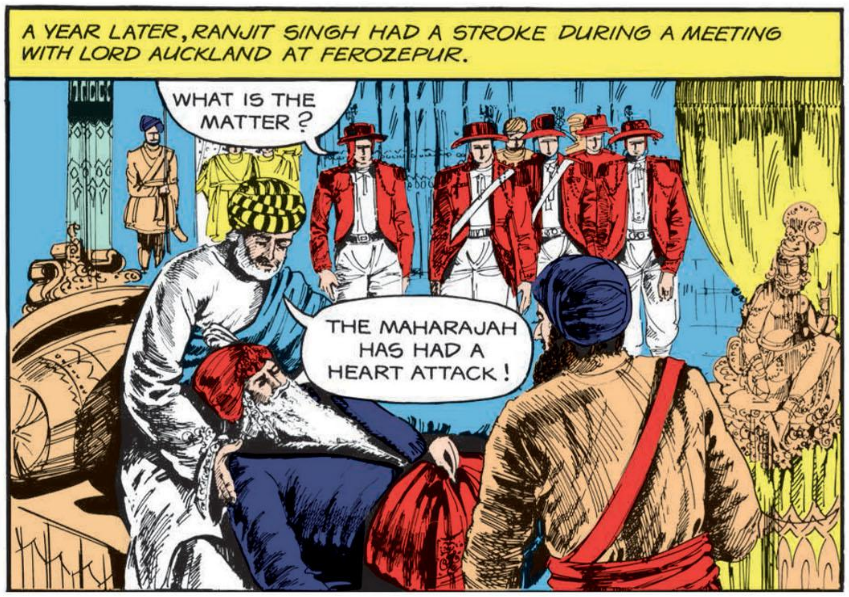

A STRONG ARTILLERY CORPS, WITH CANNONS AND GUNNERS WAS ALSO FORMED.

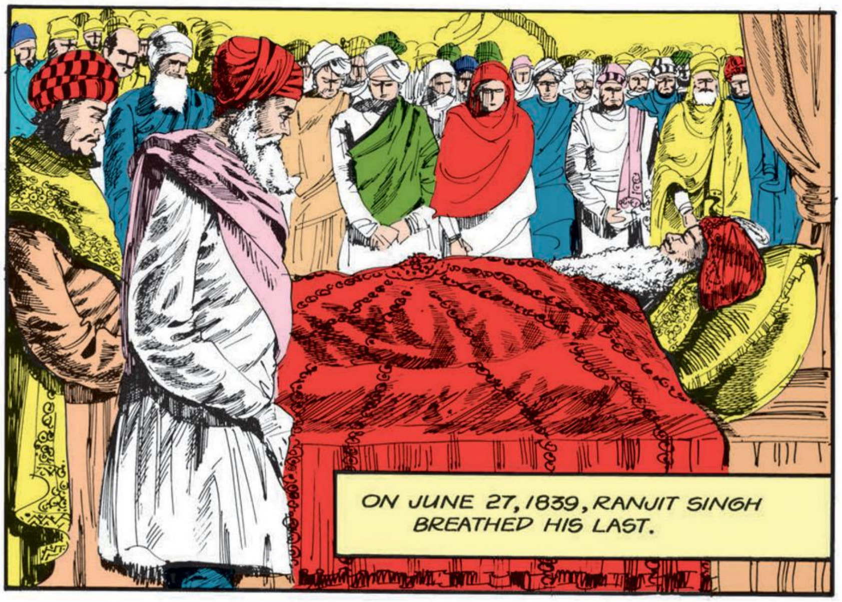

THE CAVALRY, THE MAIN STRIKING FORCE, WAS STRENGTHENED.


SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE, FROM OUTSIDE THE PUNJAB FLOCKED TO RANJIT SINGH'S ARMY_NOTABLY THE GURKHAS.

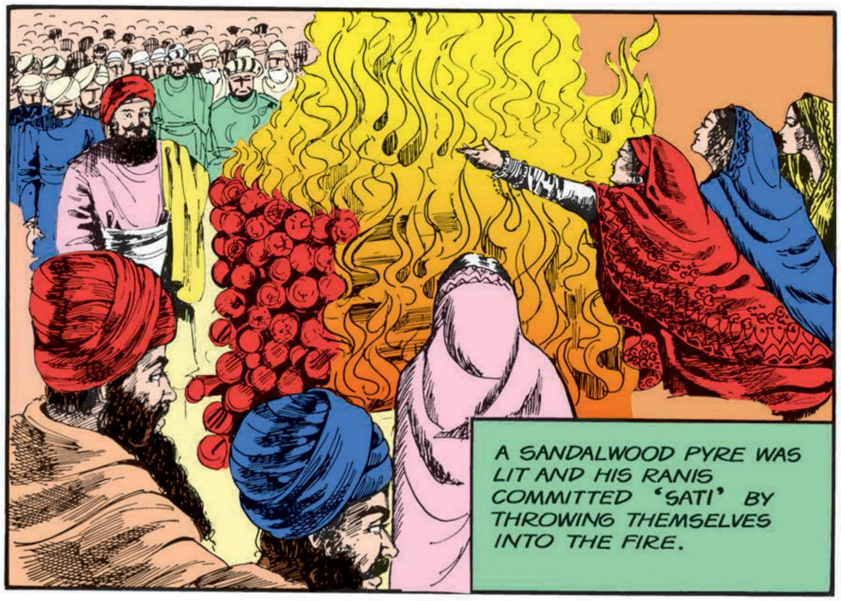

ONE OF THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS OF RANJIT SINGH'S REIGN WAS HIS ACQUISITION OF THE FAMED KOH-I-NOOR DIAMOND.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN WORN BY THE PANDAVA KINGS.
AND IN MUGHAL TIMES IT ADORNED THE PEACOCK THRONE.
NADIR SHAH TOOK IT AWAY WHEN HE SACKED DELHI.
BUT WITH RANJIT SINGH'S CONQUEST OF KASHMIR, SHAH SHUJAH WAS FORCED TO HAND IT OVER TO THE SIKH KING.
SIRE, IT IS YOURS. THE BIGGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD.


RANJIT SINGH'S REIGN WAS NOW DRAWING TO AN END. IN 1837 HIS GRANDSON, NAU NIHAL SINGH WAS MARRIED AMIDST GREAT SPLENDOUR.


A YEAR LATER, RANJIT SINGH HAD A STROKE DURING A MEETING WITH LORD AUCKLAND AT FEROZEPUR.
WHAT IS THE MATTER ?
THE MAHARAJAH HAS HAD A HEART ATTACK !

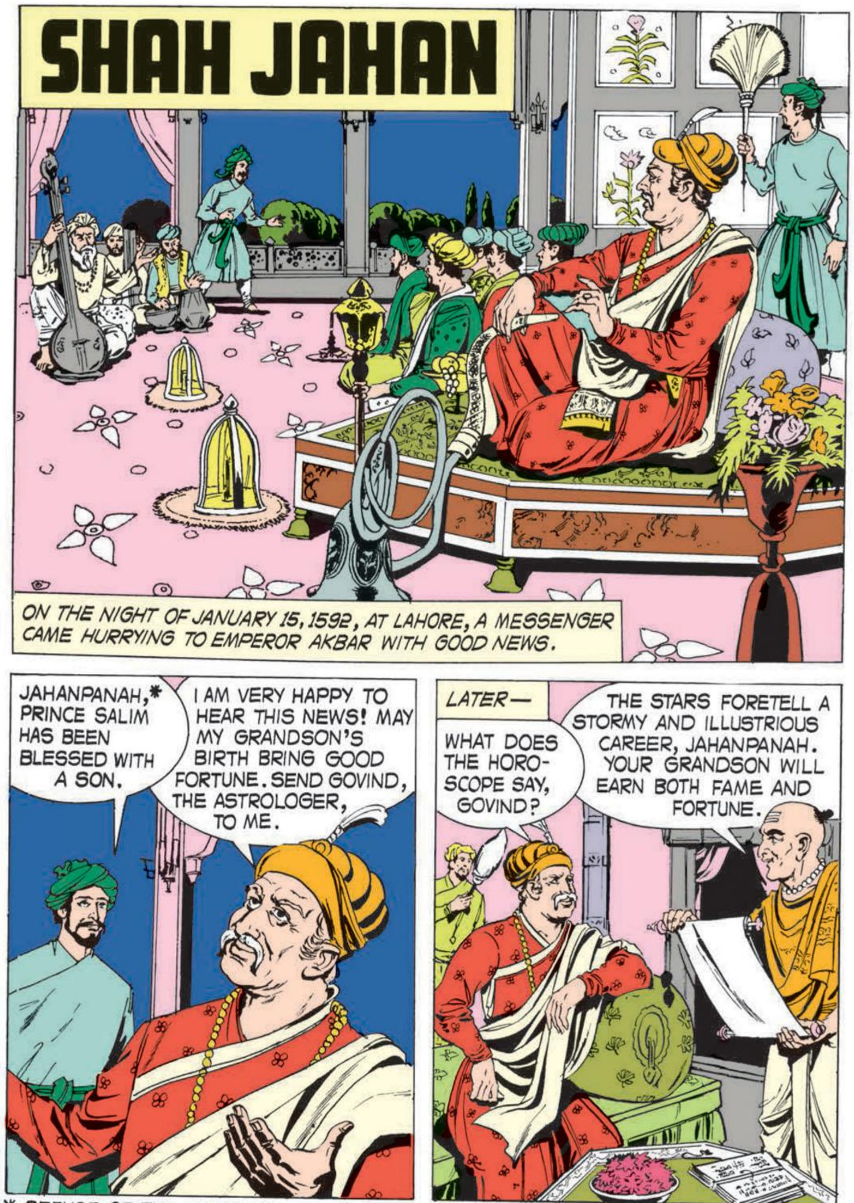


ON JUNE 27, 1839, RANJIT SINGH BREATHED HIS LAST.



A SANDALWOOD PYRE WAS LIT AND HIS RANIS COMMITTED 'SATI' BY THROWING THEMSELVES INTO THE FIRE.

# SHAH JAHAN


ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 15, 1592, AT LAHORE, A MESSENGER CAME HURRYING TO EMPEROR AKBAR WITH GOOD NEWS.
JAHANPANAH,* PRINCE SALIM HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH A SON.
I AM VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THIS NEWS! MAY MY GRANDSON'S BIRTH BRING GOOD FORTUNE. SEND GOVIND, THE ASTROLOGER, TO ME.
LATER—
WHAT DOES THE HOROSCOPE SAY, GOVIND?
THE STARS FORETELL A STORMY AND ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER, JAHANPANAH. YOUR GRANDSON WILL EARN BOTH FAME AND FORTUNE.

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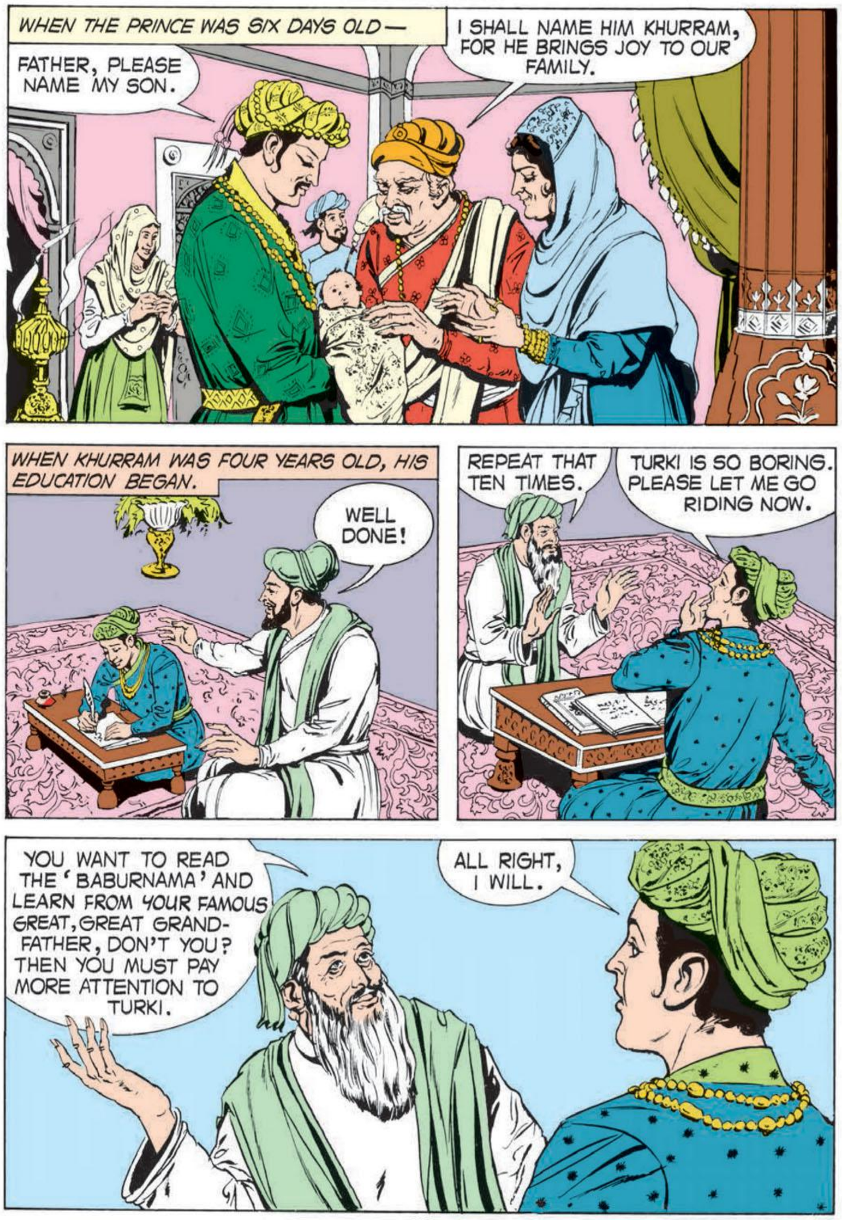
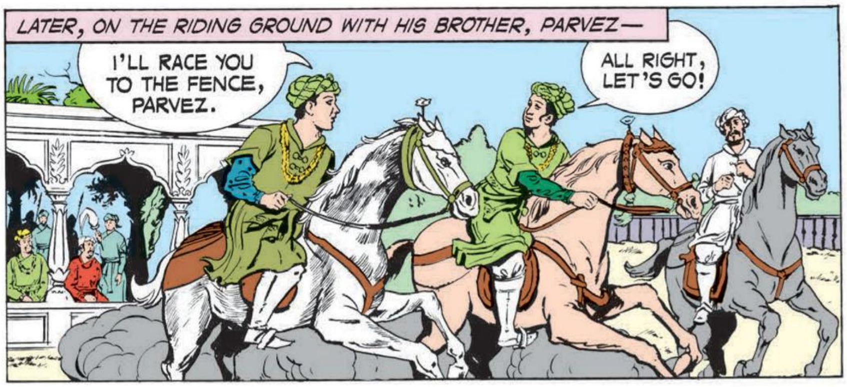
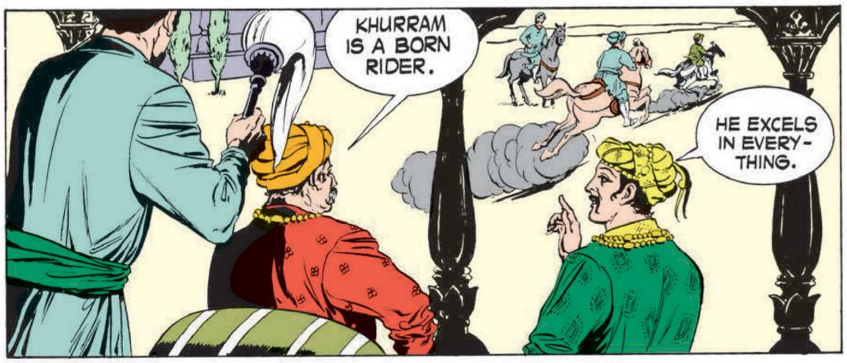
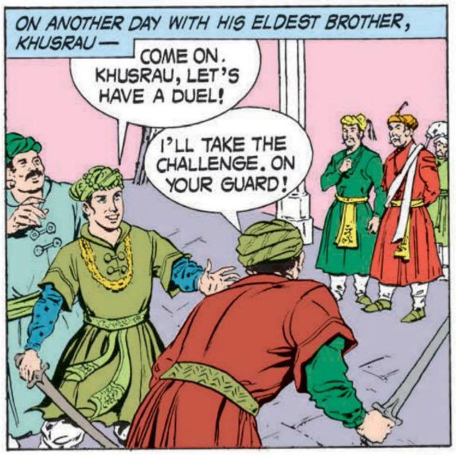
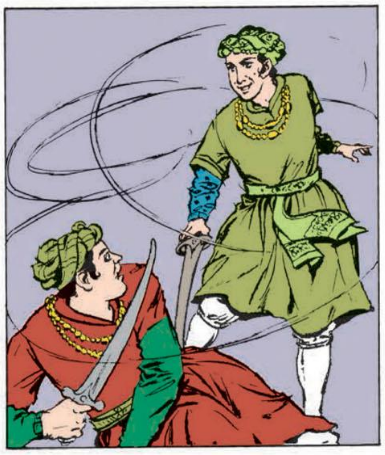
* REFUGE OF THE UNIVERSE

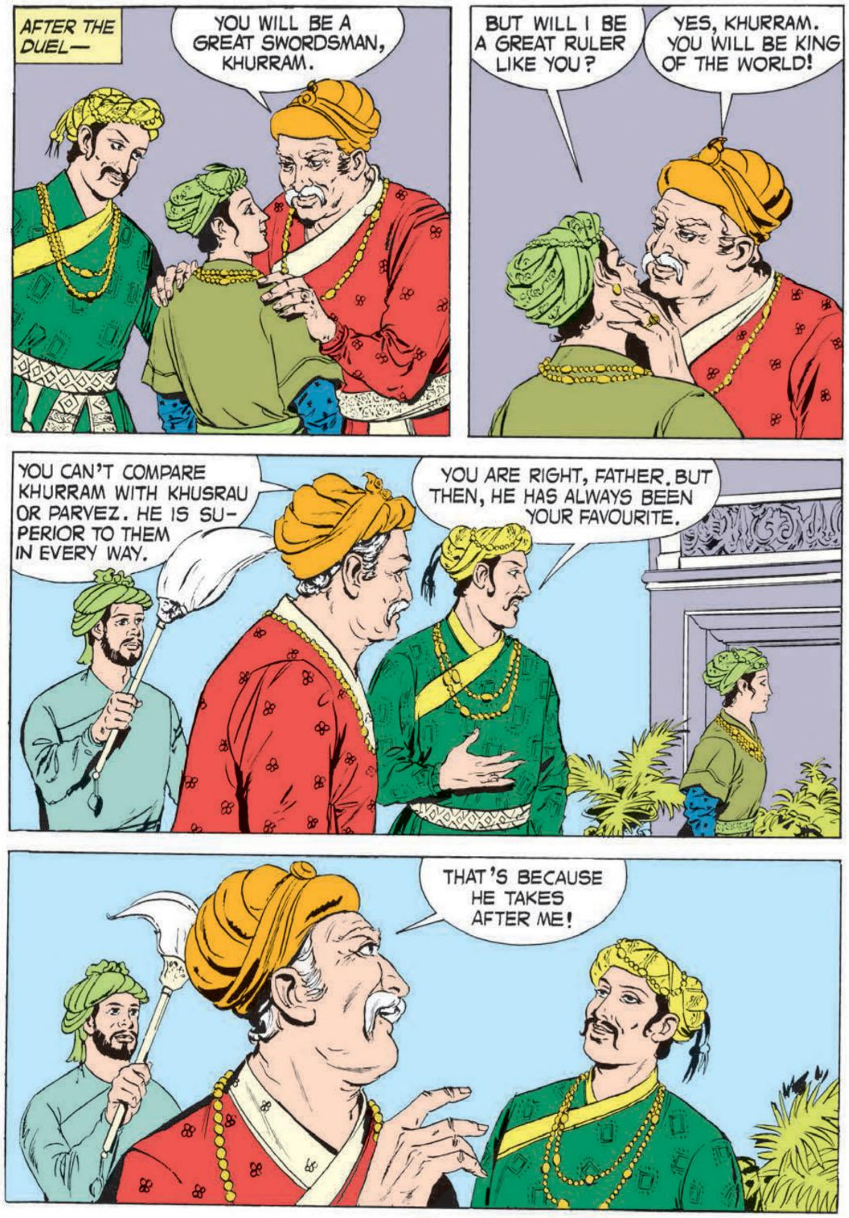

WHEN THE PRINCE WAS SIX DAYS OLD—
FATHER, PLEASE NAME MY SON.
I SHALL NAME HIM KHURRAM, FOR HE BRINGS JOY TO OUR FAMILY.
WHEN KHURRAM WAS FOUR YEARS OLD, HIS EDUCATION BEGAN.
WELL DONE!
REPEAT THAT TEN TIMES.
TURKI IS SO BORING. PLEASE LET ME GO RIDING NOW.
YOU WANT TO READ THE 'BABURNAMA' AND LEARN FROM YOUR FAMOUS GREAT, GREAT GRAND-FATHER, DON'T YOU? THEN YOU MUST PAY MORE ATTENTION TO TURKI.
ALL RIGHT, I WILL.

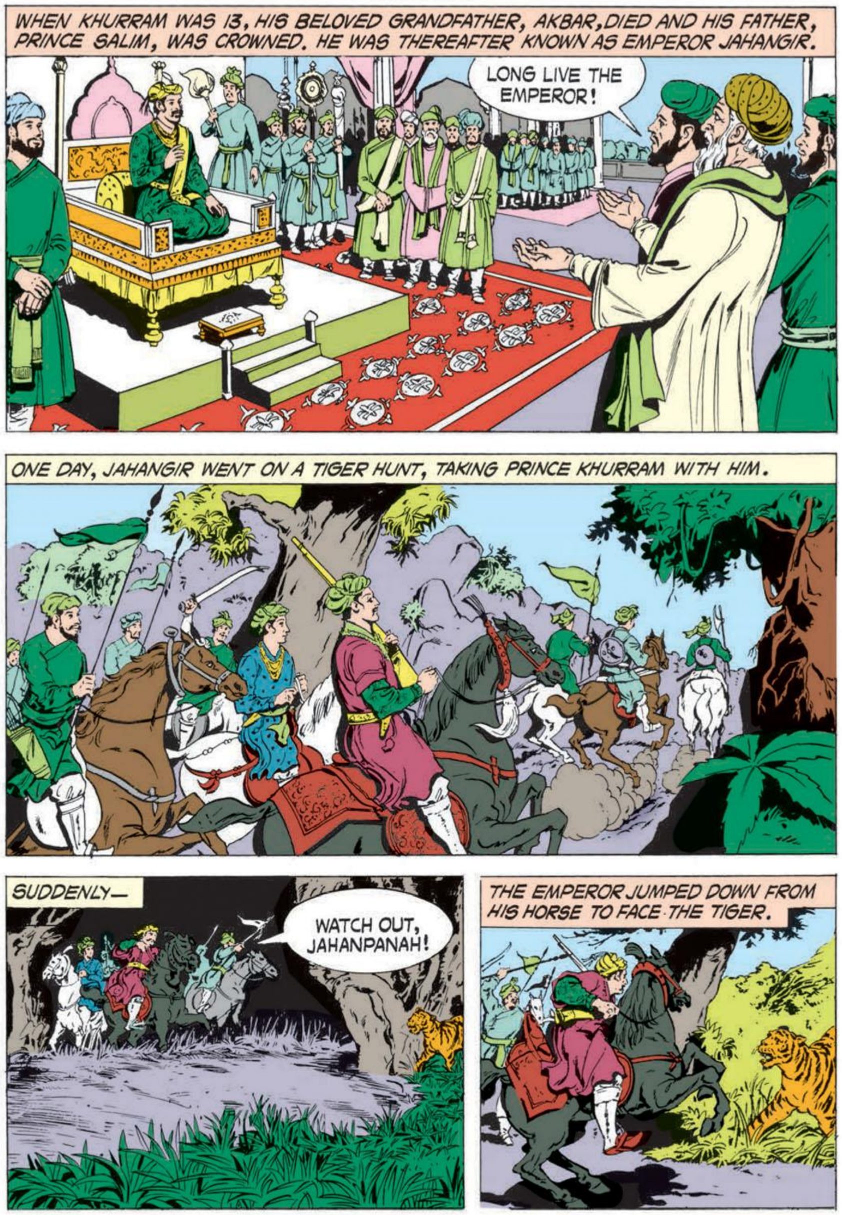

LATER, ON THE RIDING GROUND WITH HIS BROTHER, PARVEZ—
I'LL RACE YOU TO THE FENCE, PARVEZ.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

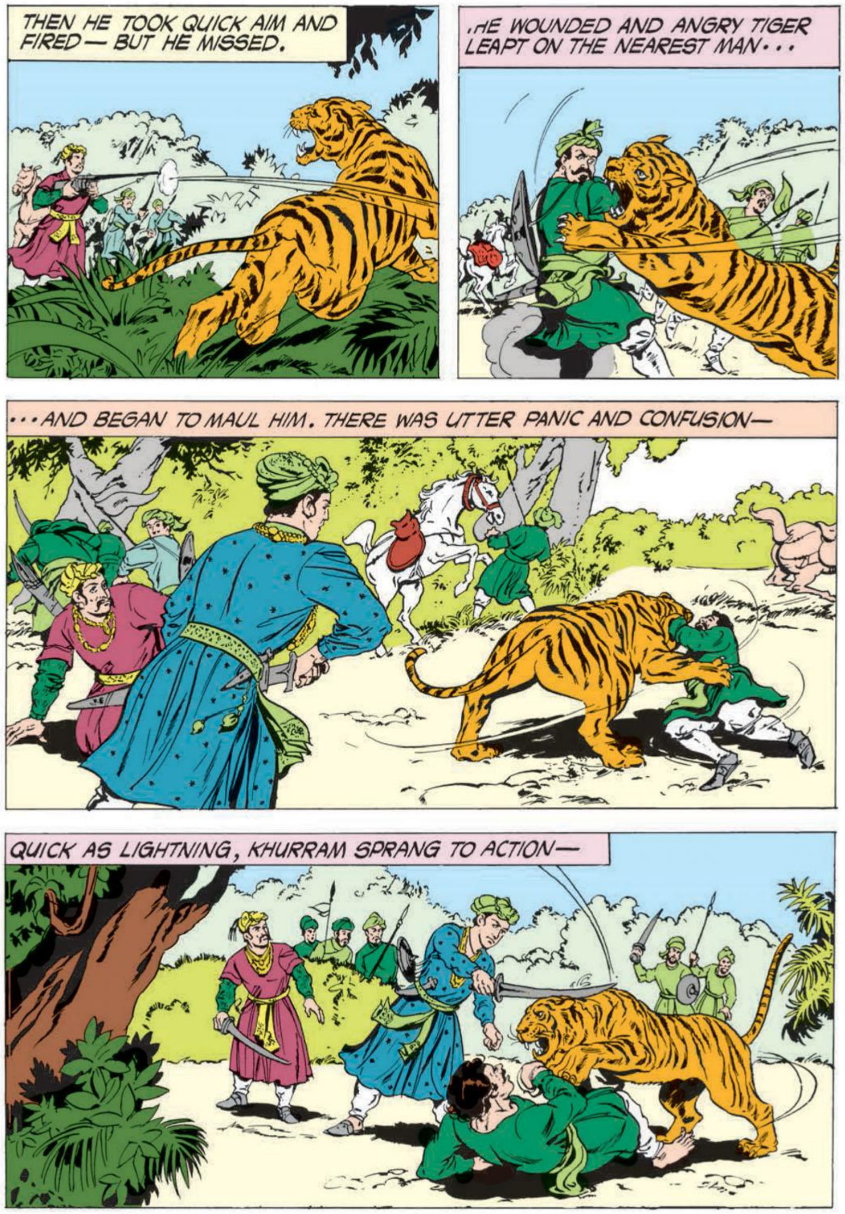

KHURRAM IS A BORN RIDER.
HE EXCELS IN EVERYTHING.

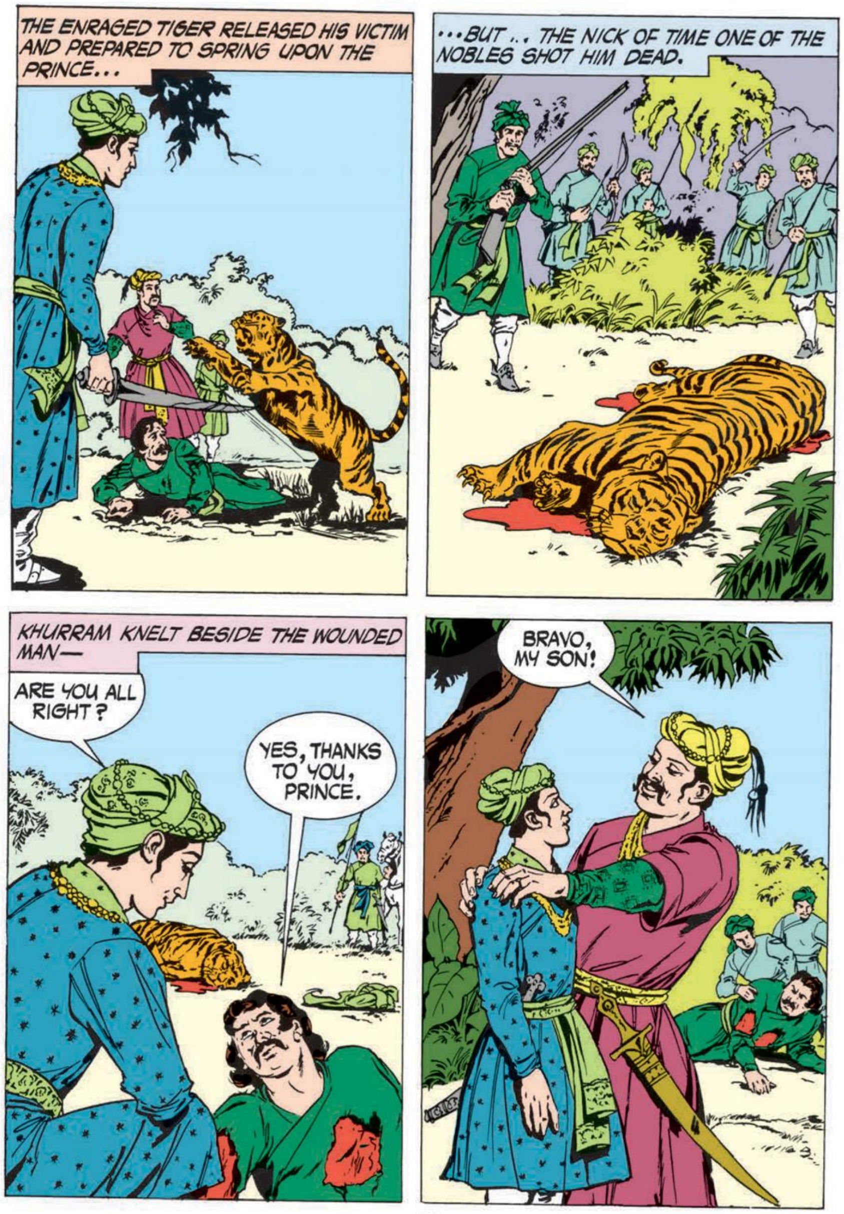

ON ANOTHER DAY WITH HIS ELDEST BROTHER, KHUSRAU—
COME ON. KHUSRAU, LET'S HAVE A DUEL!
I'LL TAKE THE CHALLENGE. ON YOUR GUARD!

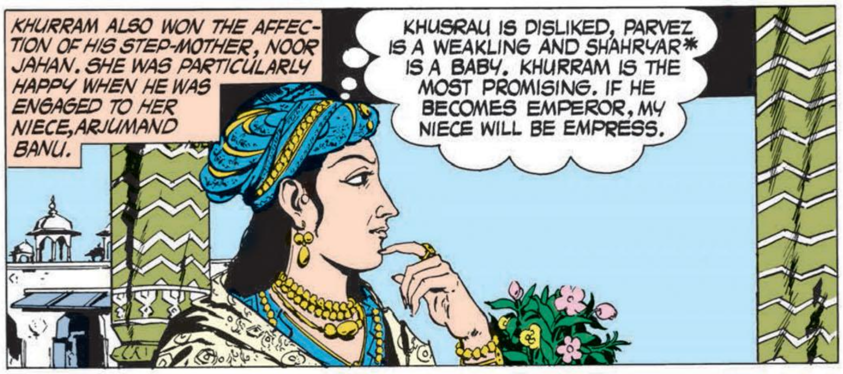


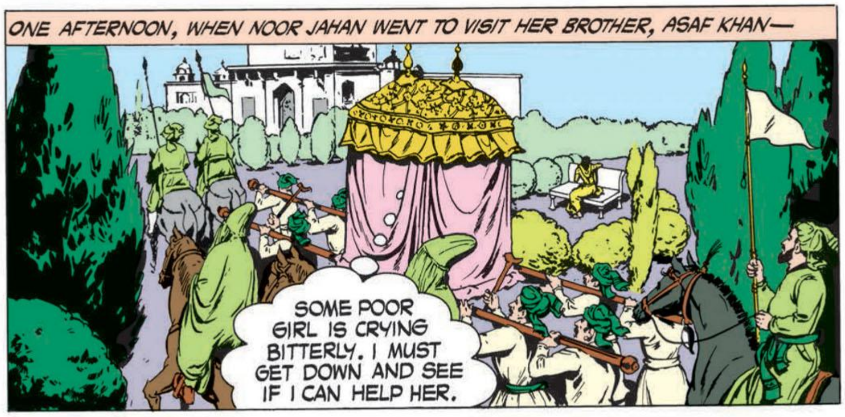

AFTER THE DUEL—
YOU WILL BE A GREAT SWORDSMAN, KHURRAM.
BUT WILL I BE A GREAT RULER LIKE YOU?
YES, KHURRAM. YOU WILL BE KING OF THE WORLD!
YOU CAN'T COMPARE KHURRAM WITH KHUSRAU OR PARVEZ. HE IS SUPERIOR TO THEM IN EVERY WAY.
YOU ARE RIGHT, FATHER. BUT THEN, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE TAKES AFTER ME!

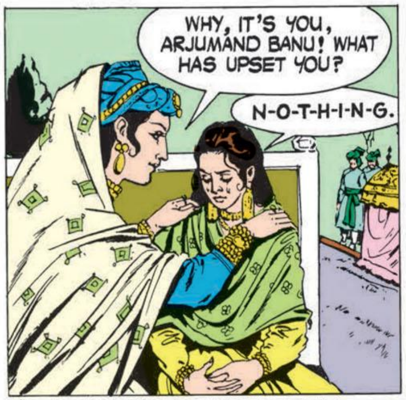

WHEN KHURRAM WAS 13, HIS BELOVED GRANDFATHER, AKBAR, DIED AND HIS FATHER, PRINCE SALIM, WAS CROWNED. HE WAS THEREAFTER KNOWN AS EMPEROR JAHANGIR.
LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!
ONE DAY, JAHANGIR WENT ON A TIGER HUNT, TAKING PRINCE KHURRAM WITH HIM.
SUDDENLY—
WATCH OUT, JAHANPANAH!
THE EMPEROR JUMPED DOWN FROM HIS HORSE TO FACE THE TIGER.

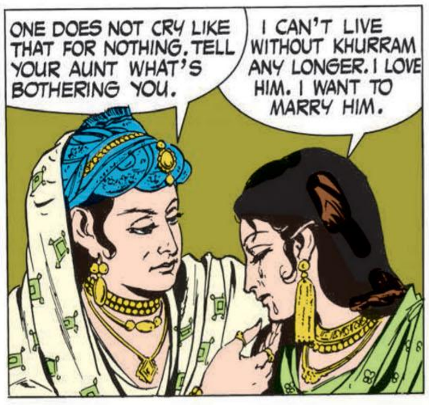

THEN HE TOOK QUICK AIM AND FIRED — BUT HE MISSED.
THE WOUNDED AND ANGRY TIGER LEAPT ON THE NEAREST MAN . . .
. . . AND BEGAN TO MAUL HIM. THERE WAS UTTER PANIC AND CONFUSION—
QUICK AS LIGHTNING, KHURRAM SPRANG TO ACTION—


THE ENRAGED TIGER RELEASED HIS VICTIM AND PREPARED TO SPRING UPON THE PRINCE...
...BUT .. THE NICK OF TIME ONE OF THE NOBLES SHOT HIM DEAD.
KHURRAM KNELT BESIDE THE WOUNDED MAN—
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES, THANKS TO YOU, PRINCE.
BRAVO, MY SON!

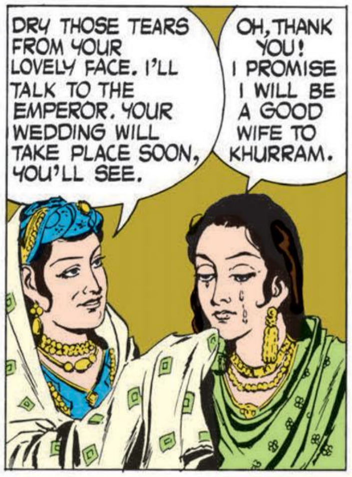

KHURRAM ALSO WON THE AFFECTION OF HIS STEP-MOTHER, NOOR JAHAN. SHE WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY WHEN HE WAS ENGAGED TO HER NIECE, ARJUMAND BANU.
KHUSRAU IS DISLIKED, PARVEZ IS A WEAKLING AND SHAHRYAR* IS A BABY. KHURRAM IS THE MOST PROMISING. IF HE BECOMES EMPEROR, MY NIECE WILL BE EMPRESS.

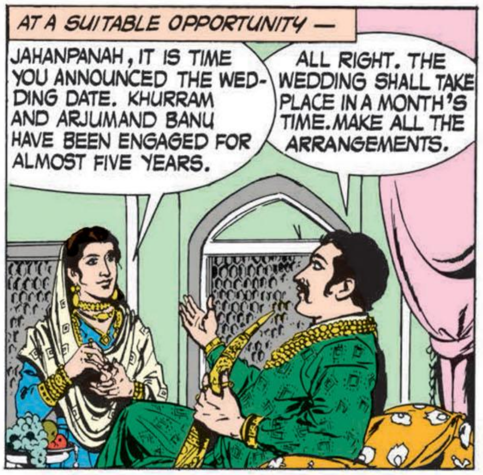

ONE AFTERNOON, WHEN NOOR JAHAN WENT TO VISIT HER BROTHER, ASAF KHAN—
SOME POOR GIRL IS CRYING BITTERLY. I MUST GET DOWN AND SEE IF I CAN HELP HER.

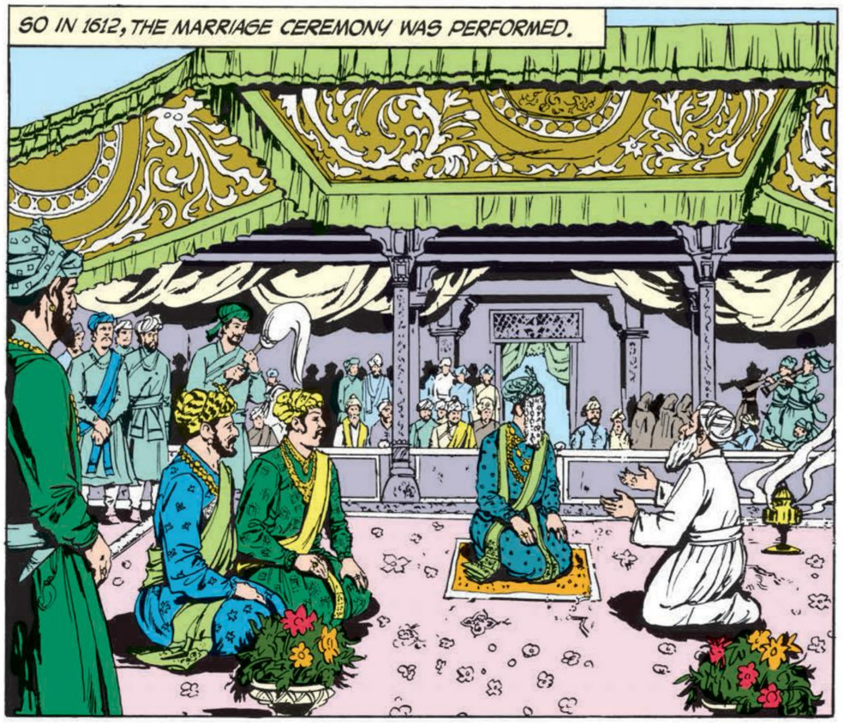

WHY, IT'S YOU, ARJUMAND BANU! WHAT HAS UPSET YOU?
N-O-T-H-I-N-G.

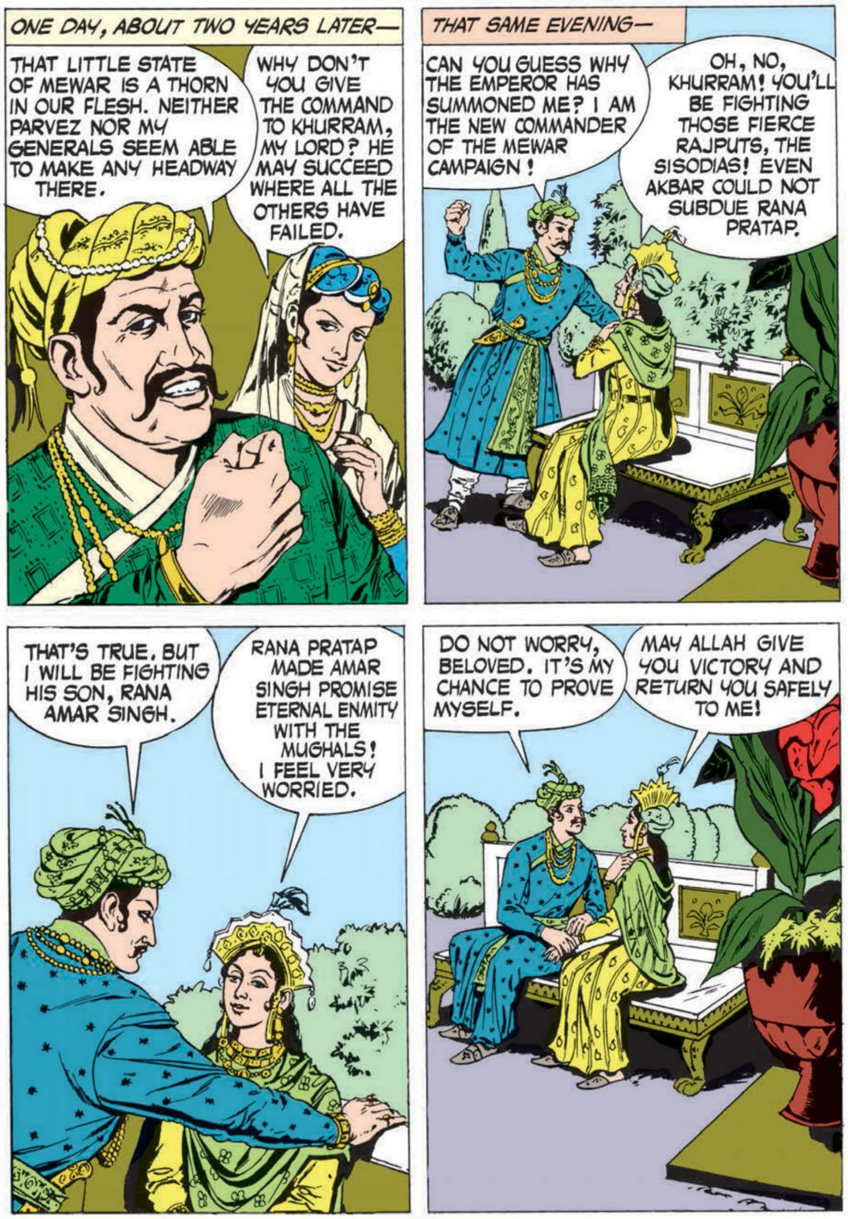

ONE DOES NOT CRY LIKE THAT FOR NOTHING. TELL YOUR AUNT WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU.
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT KHURRAM ANY LONGER. I LOVE HIM. I WANT TO MARRY HIM.

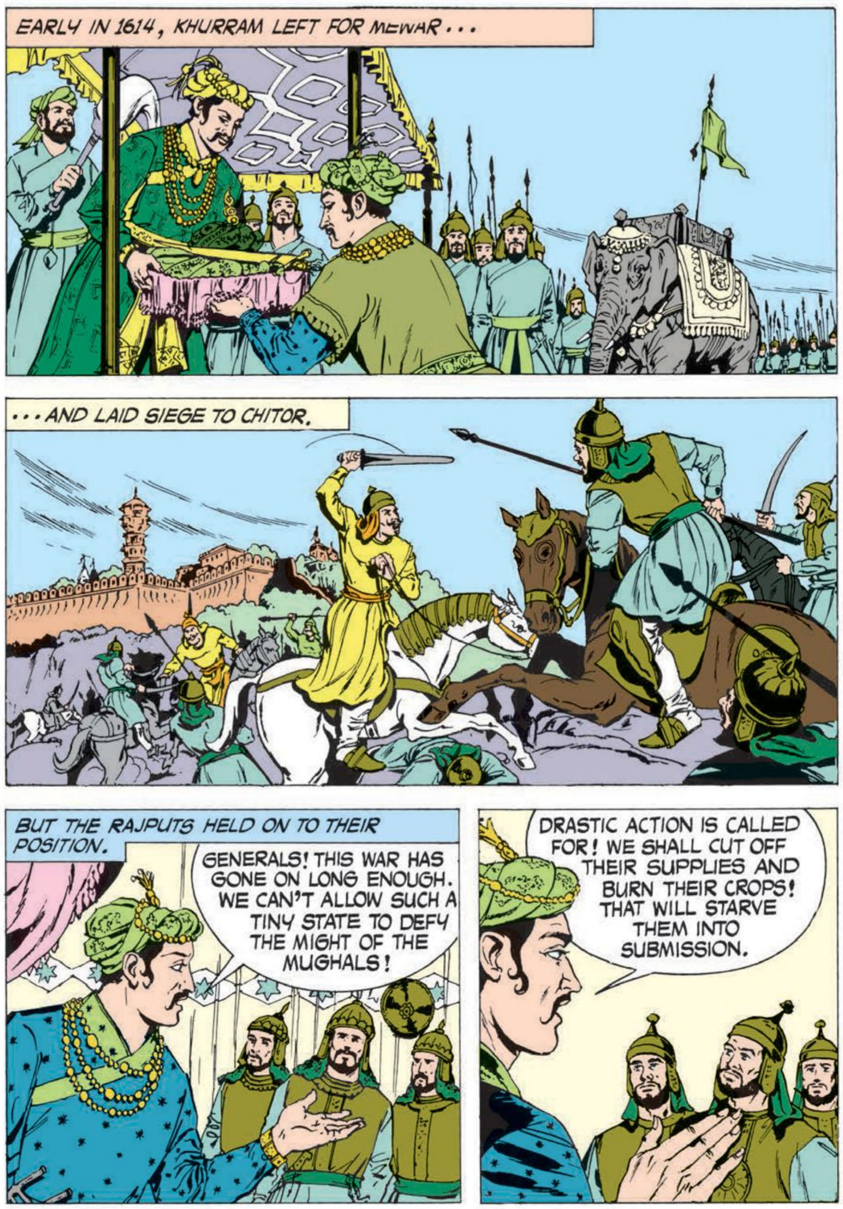
* JAHANGIR'S YOUNGEST SON

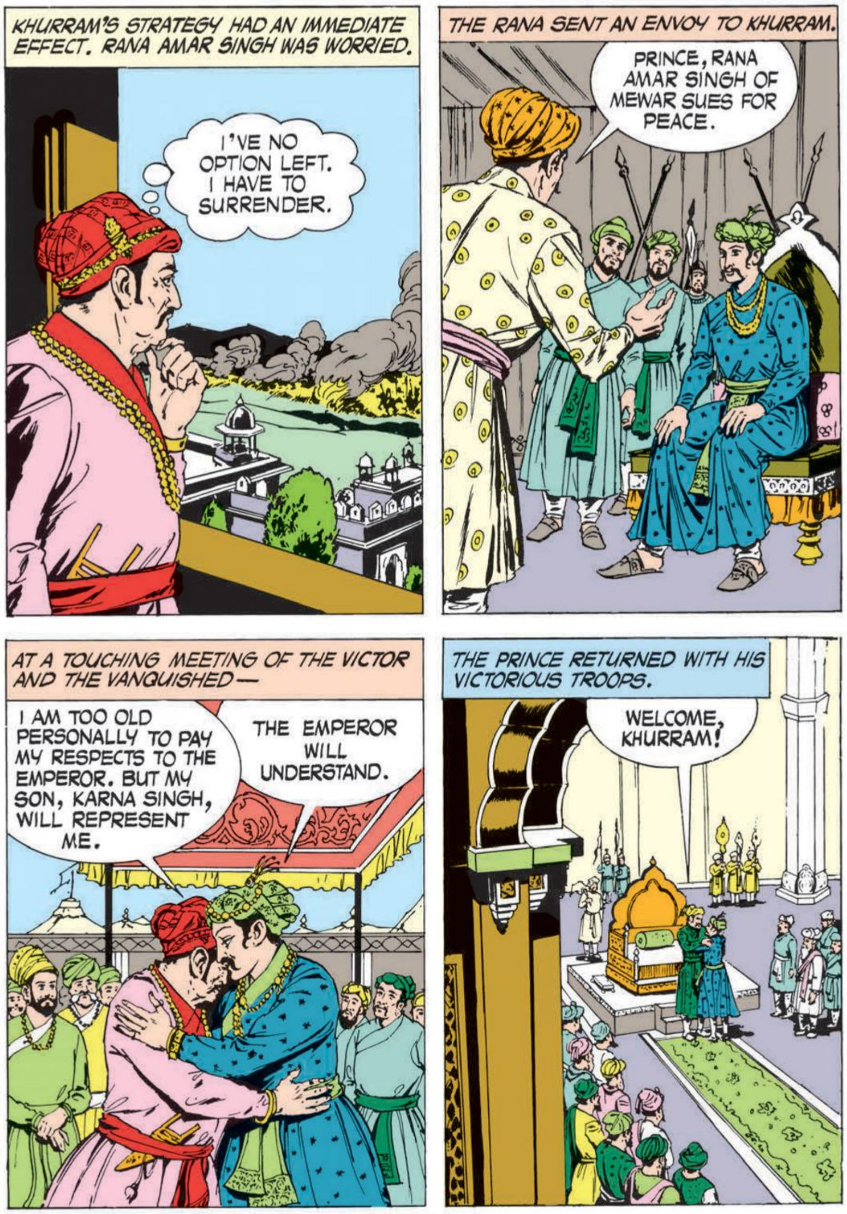

DRY THOSE TEARS FROM YOUR LOVELY FACE. I'LL TALK TO THE EMPEROR. YOUR WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE SOON, YOU'LL SEE.
OH, THANK YOU! I PROMISE I WILL BE A GOOD WIFE TO KHURRAM.

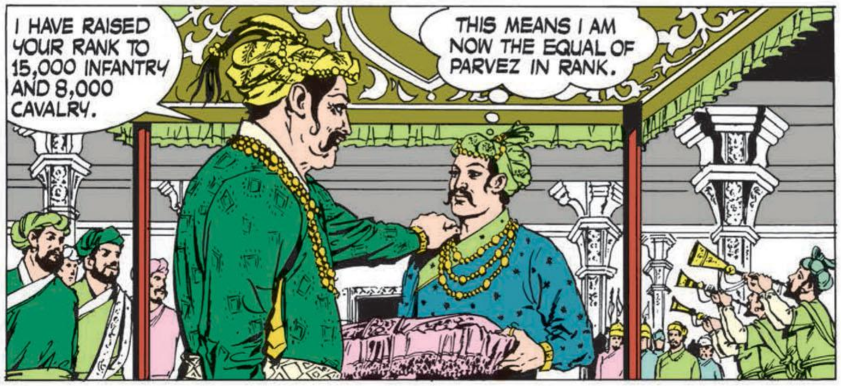

AT A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY —
JAHANPANAH, IT IS TIME YOU ANNOUNCED THE WEDDING DATE. KHURRAM AND ARJUMAND BANU HAVE BEEN ENGAGED FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS.
ALL RIGHT. THE WEDDING SHALL TAKE PLACE IN A MONTH'S TIME. MAKE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS.

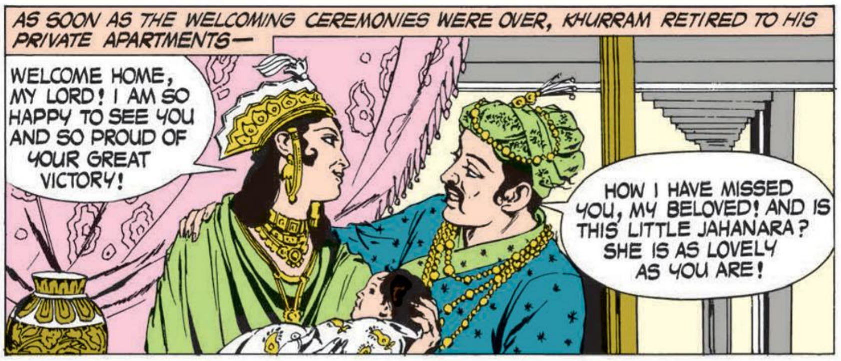

SO IN 1612, THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED.

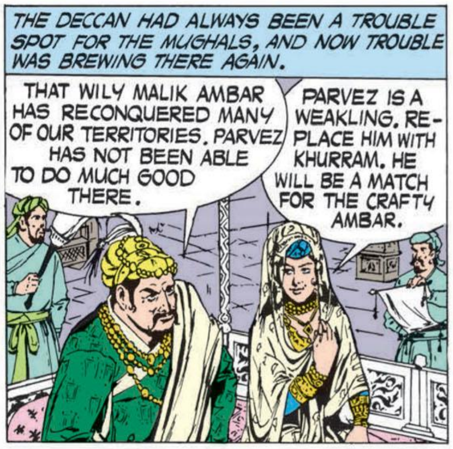

ONE DAY, ABOUT TWO YEARS LATER—
THAT LITTLE STATE OF MEWAR IS A THORN IN OUR FLESH. NEITHER PARVEZ NOR MY GENERALS SEEM ABLE TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY THERE.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE COMMAND TO KHURRAM, MY LORD? HE MAY SUCCEED WHERE ALL THE OTHERS HAVE FAILED.
THAT SAME EVENING—
CAN YOU GUESS WHY THE EMPEROR HAS SUMMONED ME? I AM THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE MEWAR CAMPAIGN!
OH, NO, KHURRAM! YOU'LL BE FIGHTING THOSE FIERCE RAJPUTS, THE SISODIAS! EVEN AKBAR COULD NOT SUBDUE RANA PRATAP.
THAT'S TRUE. BUT I WILL BE FIGHTING HIS SON, RANA AMAR SINGH.
RANA PRATAP MADE AMAR SINGH PROMISE ETERNAL ENMITY WITH THE MUGHALS! I FEEL VERY WORRIED.
DO NOT WORRY, BELOVED. IT'S MY CHANCE TO PROVE MYSELF.
MAY ALLAH GIVE YOU VICTORY AND RETURN YOU SAFELY TO ME!

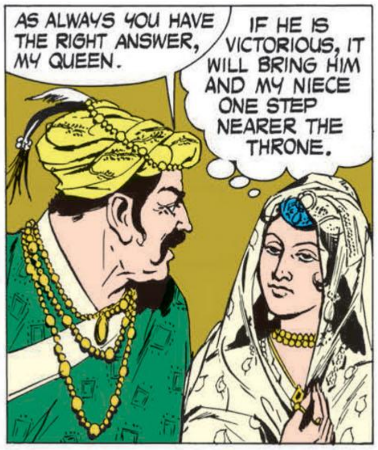

EARLY IN 1614, KHURRAM LEFT FOR MEWAR...
...AND LAID SIEGE TO CHITOR.
BUT THE RAJPUTS HELD ON TO THEIR POSITION.
GENERALS! THIS WAR HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH. WE CAN'T ALLOW SUCH A TINY STATE TO DEFY THE MIGHT OF THE MUGHALS!
DRASTIC ACTION IS CALLED FOR! WE SHALL CUT OFF THEIR SUPPLIES AND BURN THEIR CROPS! THAT WILL STARVE THEM INTO SUBMISSION.

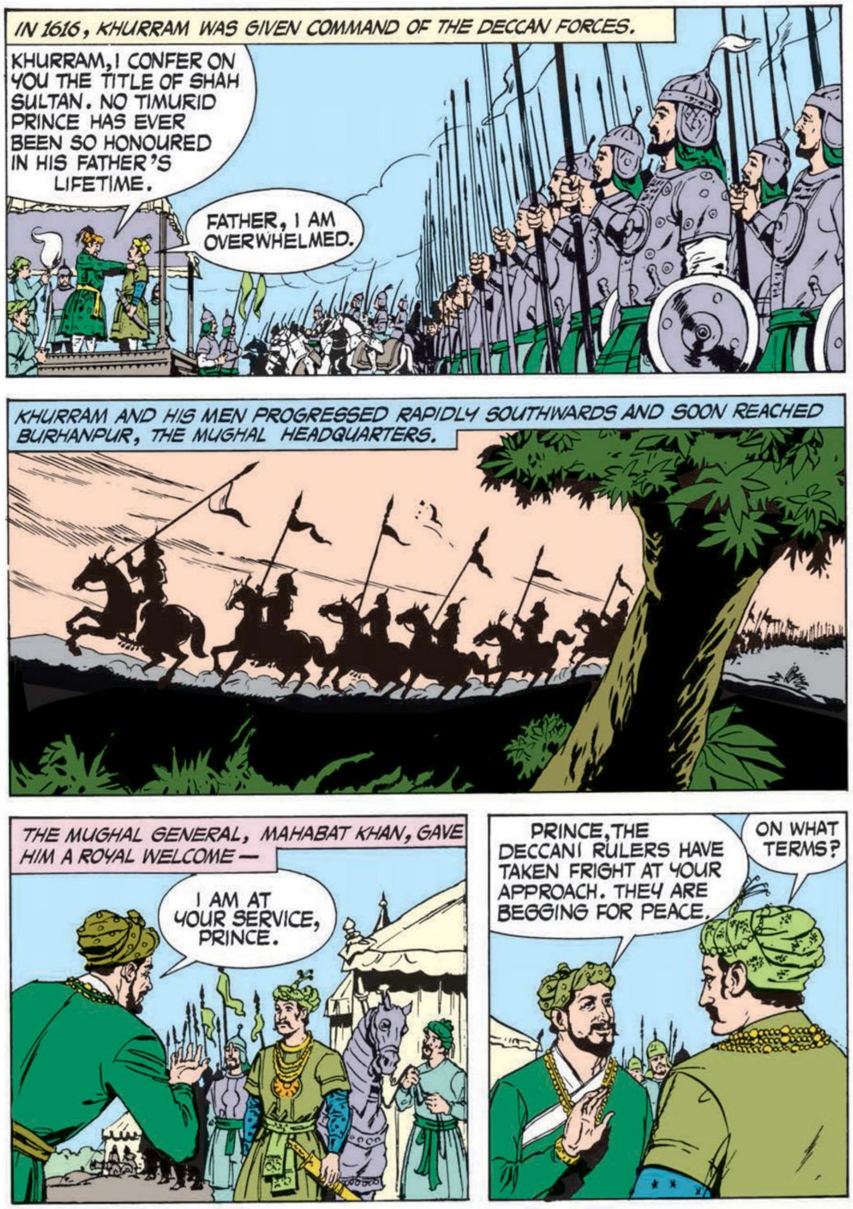

KHURRAM'S STRATEGY HAD AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT. RANA AMAR SINGH WAS WORRIED.
I'VE NO OPTION LEFT. I HAVE TO SURRENDER.
THE RANA SENT AN ENVOY TO KHURRAM.
PRINCE, RANA AMAR SINGH OF MEWAR SUES FOR PEACE.
AT A TOUCHING MEETING OF THE VICTOR AND THE VANQUISHED—
I AM TOO OLD PERSONALLY TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO THE EMPEROR. BUT MY SON, KARNA SINGH, WILL REPRESENT ME.
THE EMPEROR WILL UNDERSTAND.
THE PRINCE RETURNED WITH HIS VICTORIOUS TROOPS.
WELCOME, KHURRAM!

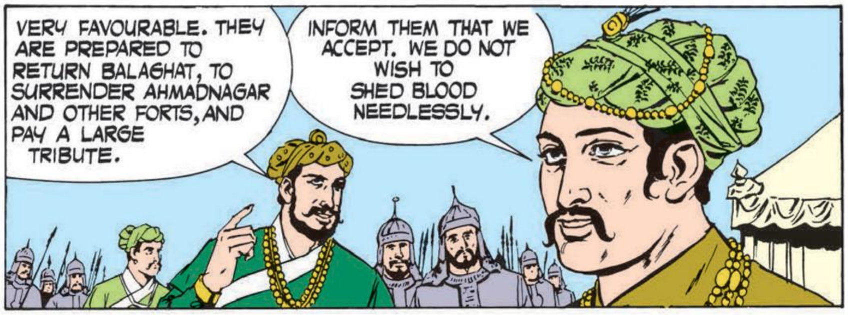

I HAVE RAISED YOUR RANK TO 15,000 INFANTRY AND 8,000 CAVALRY.
THIS MEANS I AM NOW THE EQUAL OF PARVEZ IN RANK.

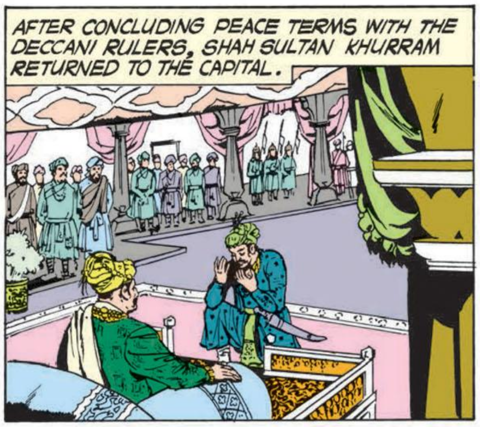

AS SOON AS THE WELCOMING CEREMONIES WERE OVER, KHURRAM RETIRED TO HIS PRIVATE APARTMENTS—
WELCOME HOME, MY LORD! I AM SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AND SO PROUD OF YOUR GREAT VICTORY!
HOW I HAVE MISSED YOU, MY BELOVED! AND IS THIS LITTLE JAHANARA? SHE IS AS LOVELY AS YOU ARE!

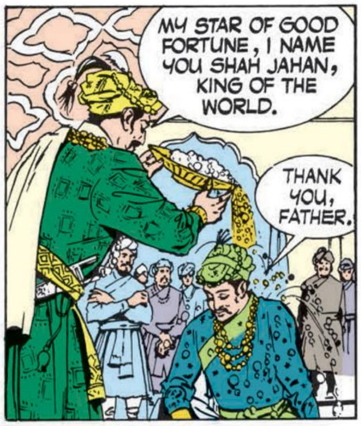

THE DECCAN HAD ALWAYS BEEN A TROUBLE SPOT FOR THE MUGHALS, AND NOW TROUBLE WAS BREWING THERE AGAIN.
THAT WILY MALIK AMBAR HAS RECONQUERED MANY OF OUR TERRITORIES. PARVEZ HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO MUCH GOOD THERE.
PARVEZ IS A WEAKLING. REPLACE HIM WITH KHURRAM. HE WILL BE A MATCH FOR THE CRAFTY AMBAR.

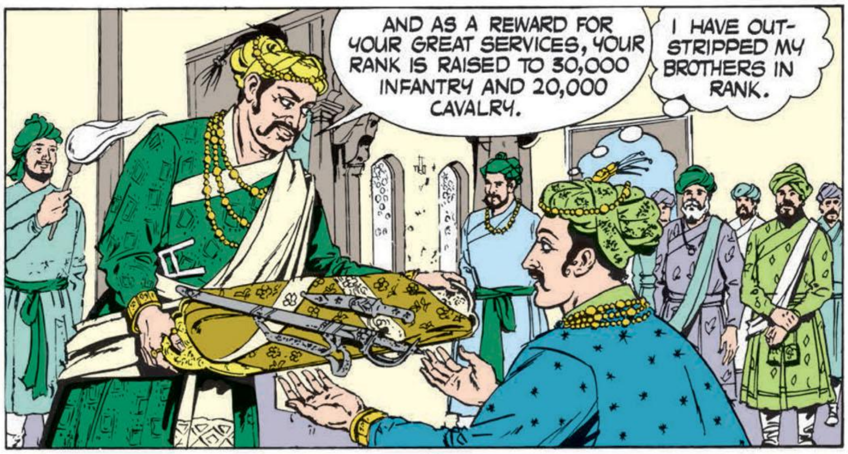

AS ALWAYS YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ANSWER, MY QUEEN.
IF HE IS VICTORIOUS, IT WILL BRING HIM AND MY NIECE ONE STEP NEARER THE THRONE.

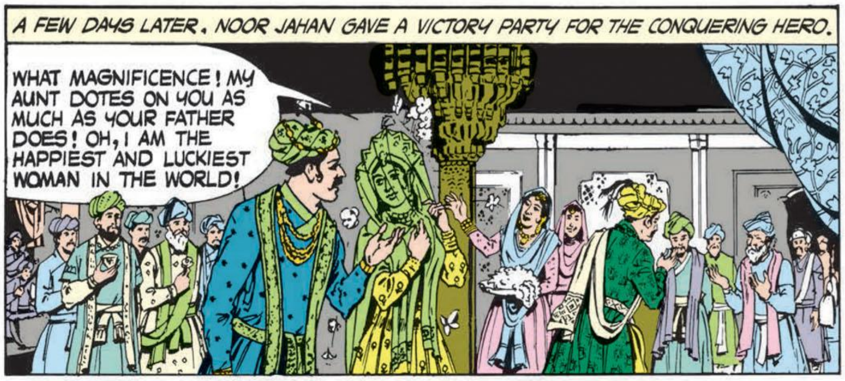

IN 1616, KHURRAM WAS GIVEN COMMAND OF THE DECCAN FORCES.
KHURRAM, I CONFER ON YOU THE TITLE OF SHAH SULTAN. NO TIMURID PRINCE HAS EVER BEEN SO HONOURED IN HIS FATHER'S LIFETIME.
FATHER, I AM OVERWHELMED.
KHURRAM AND HIS MEN PROGRESSED RAPIDLY SOUTHWARDS AND SOON REACHED BURHANPUR, THE MUGHAL HEADQUARTERS.
THE MUGHAL GENERAL, MAHABAT KHAN, GAVE HIM A ROYAL WELCOME —
I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, PRINCE.
PRINCE, THE DECCANI RULERS HAVE TAKEN FRIGHT AT YOUR APPROACH. THEY ARE BEGGING FOR PEACE.
ON WHAT TERMS?

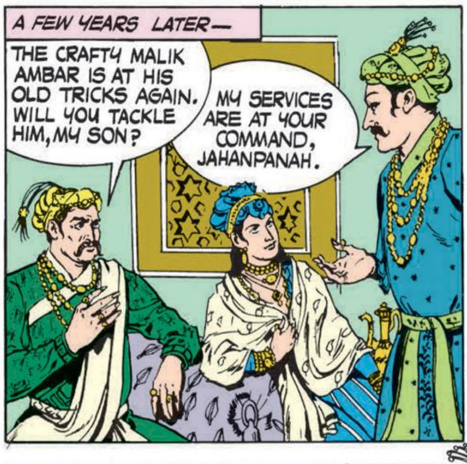

VERY FAVOURABLE. THEY ARE PREPARED TO RETURN BALAGHAT, TO SURRENDER AHMADNAGAR AND OTHER FORTS, AND PAY A LARGE TRIBUTE.
INFORM THEM THAT WE ACCEPT. WE DO NOT WISH TO SHED BLOOD NEEDLESSLY.

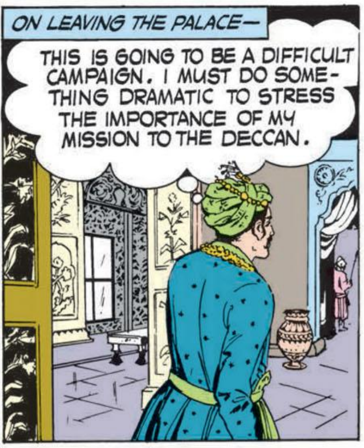

AFTER CONCLUDING PEACE TERMS WITH THE DECCANI RULERS, SHAH SULTAN KHURRAM RETURNED TO THE CAPITAL.

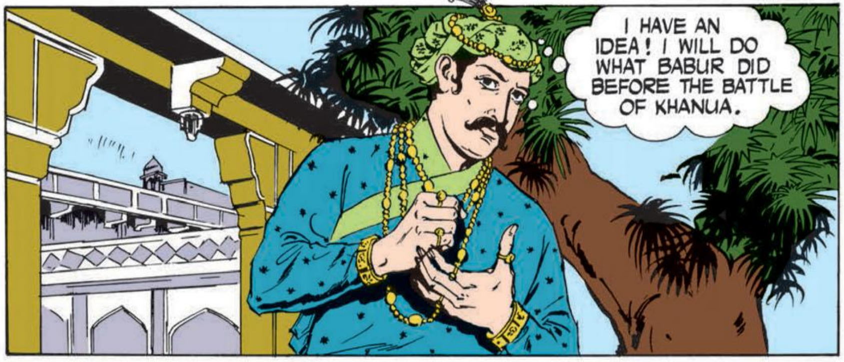

MY STAR OF GOOD FORTUNE, I NAME YOU SHAH JAHAN, KING OF THE WORLD.
THANK YOU, FATHER.

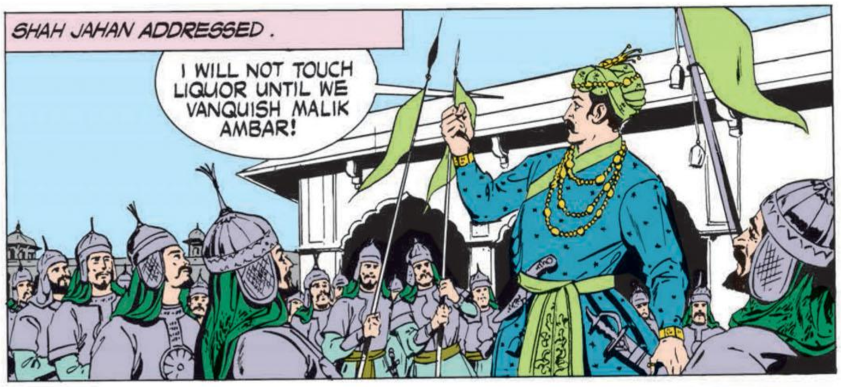

AND AS A REWARD FOR YOUR GREAT SERVICES, YOUR RANK IS RAISED TO 30,000 INFANTRY AND 20,000 CAVALRY.
I HAVE OUT-STRIPPED MY BROTHERS IN RANK.

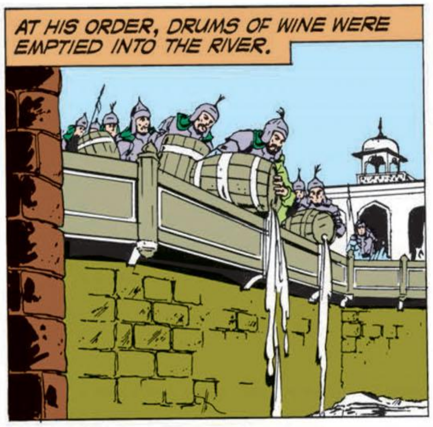

A FEW DAYS LATER. NOOR JAHAN GAVE A VICTORY PARTY FOR THE CONQUERING HERO.
WHAT MAGNIFICENCE! MY AUNT DOTES ON YOU AS MUCH AS YOUR FATHER DOES! OH, I AM THE HAPPIEST AND LUCKIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD!

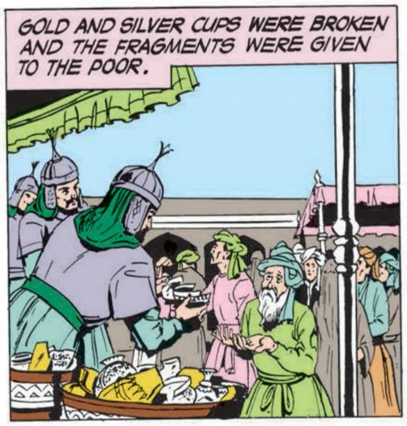

A FEW YEARS LATER—
THE CRAFTY MALIK AMBAR IS AT HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN. WILL YOU TACKLE HIM, MY SON?
MY SERVICES ARE AT YOUR COMMAND, JAHANPANAH.

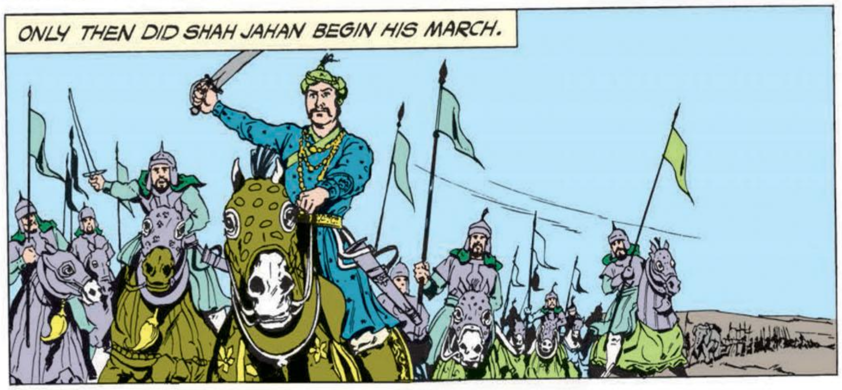

ON LEAVING THE PALACE—
THIS IS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT CAMPAIGN. I MUST DO SOMETHING DRAMATIC TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF MY MISSION TO THE DECCAN.

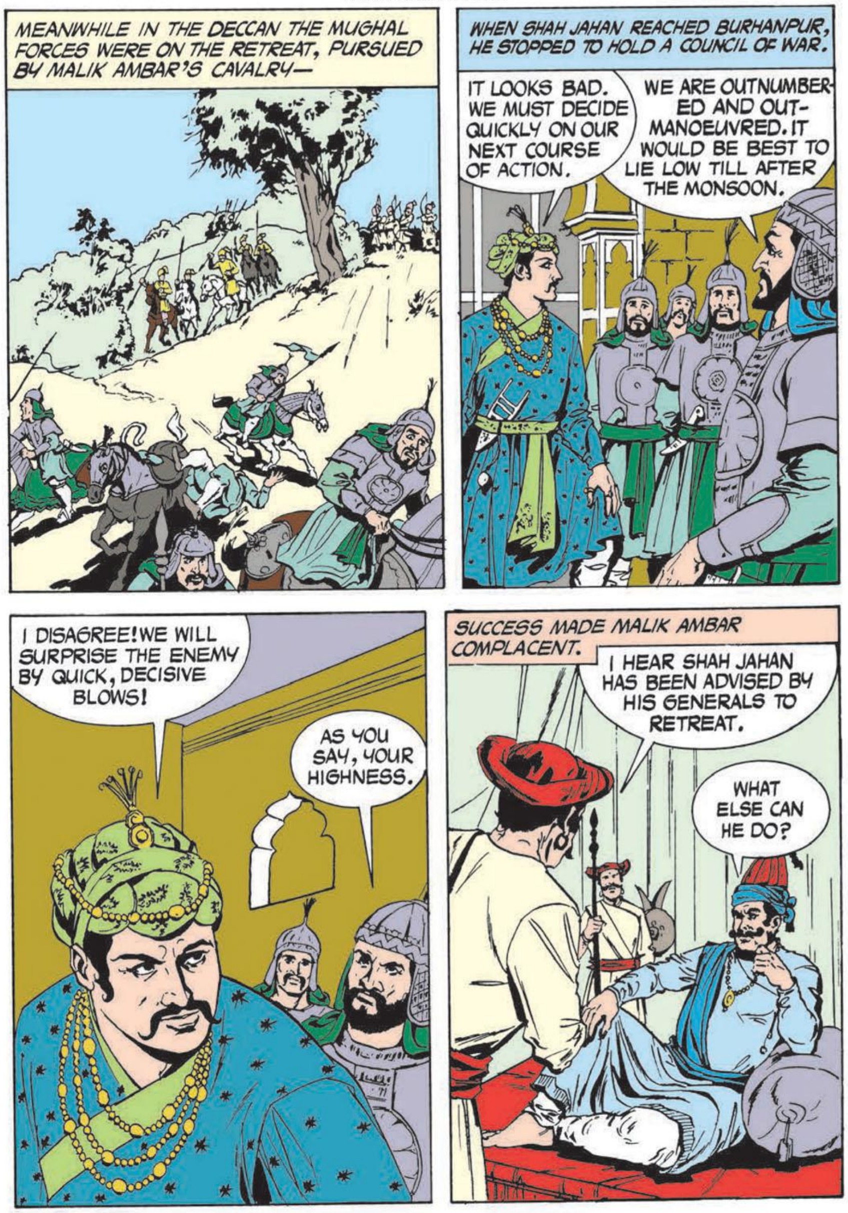

I HAVE AN IDEA! I WILL DO WHAT BABUR DID BEFORE THE BATTLE OF KHANUA.

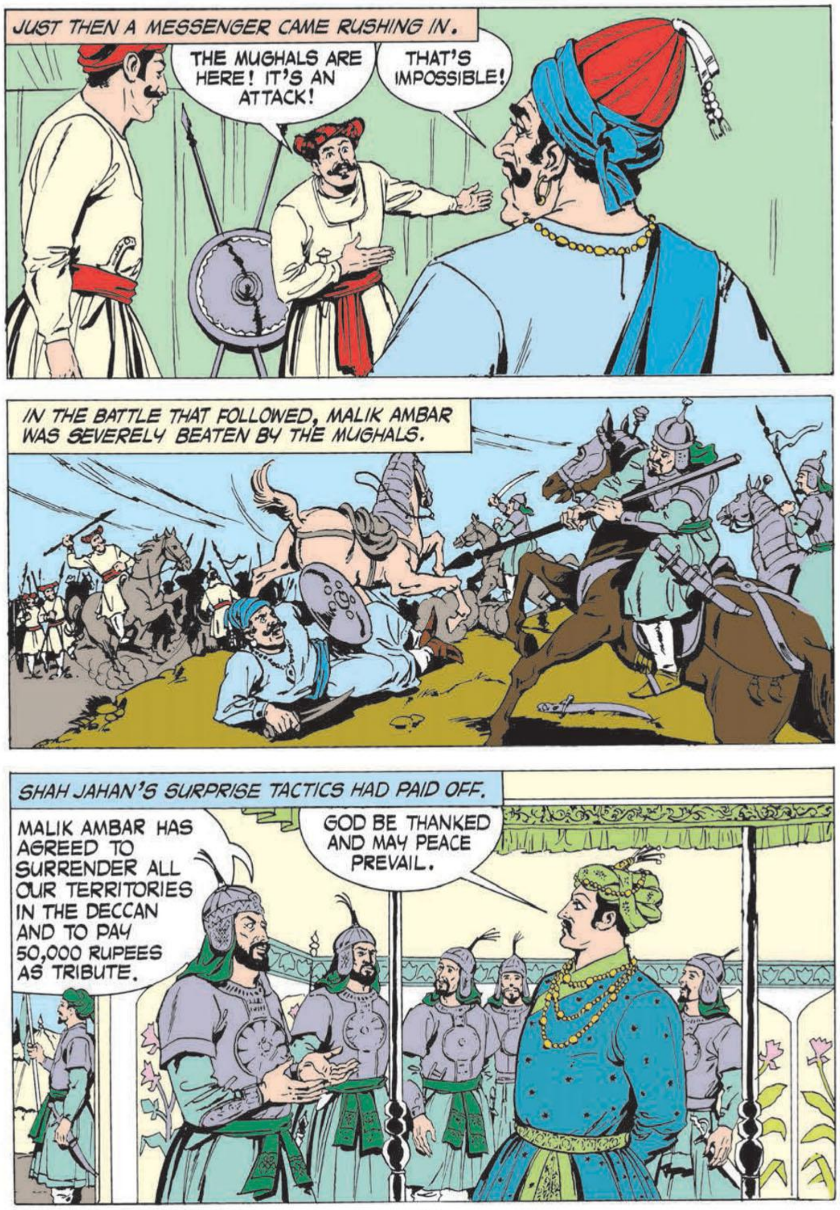

SHAH JAHAN ADDRESSED .
I WILL NOT TOUCH LIQUOR UNTIL WE VANQUISH MALIK AMBAR!

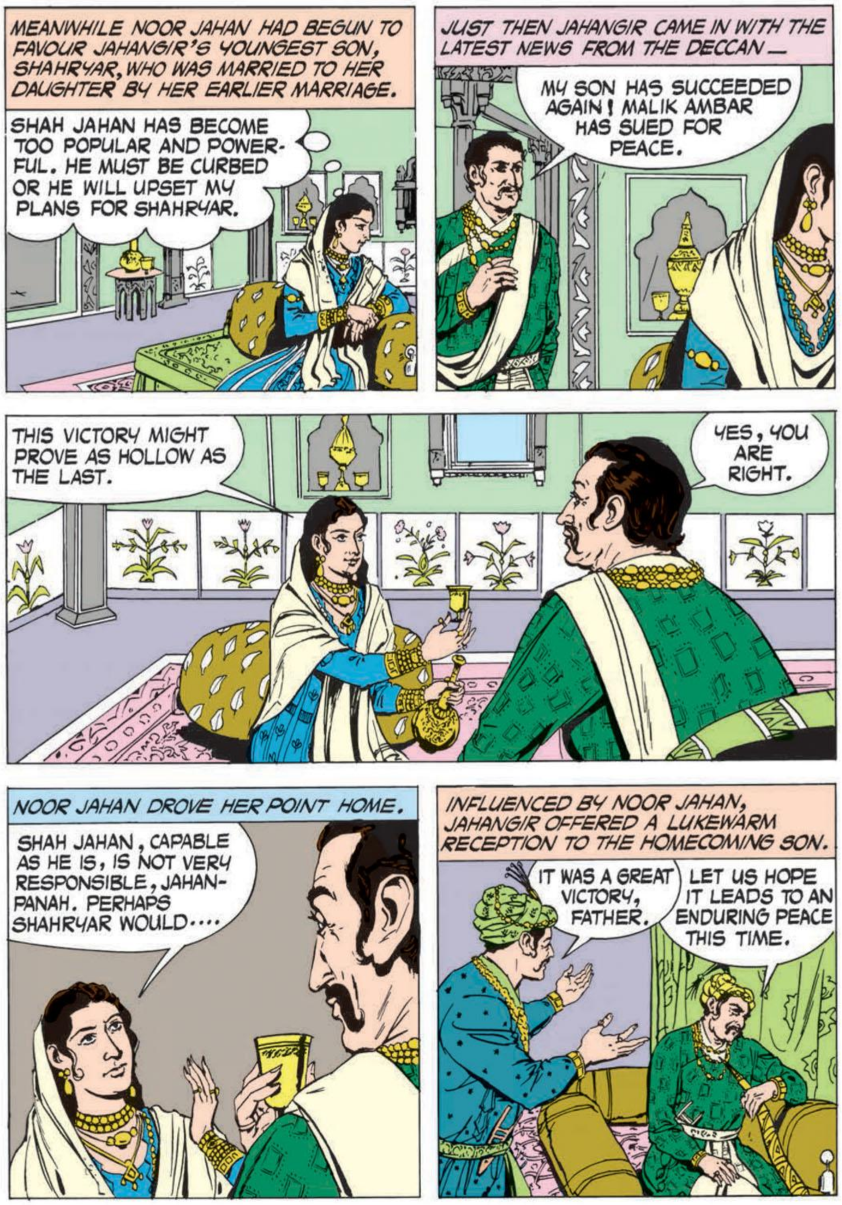

AT HIS ORDER, DRUMS OF WINE WERE EMPTIED INTO THE RIVER.

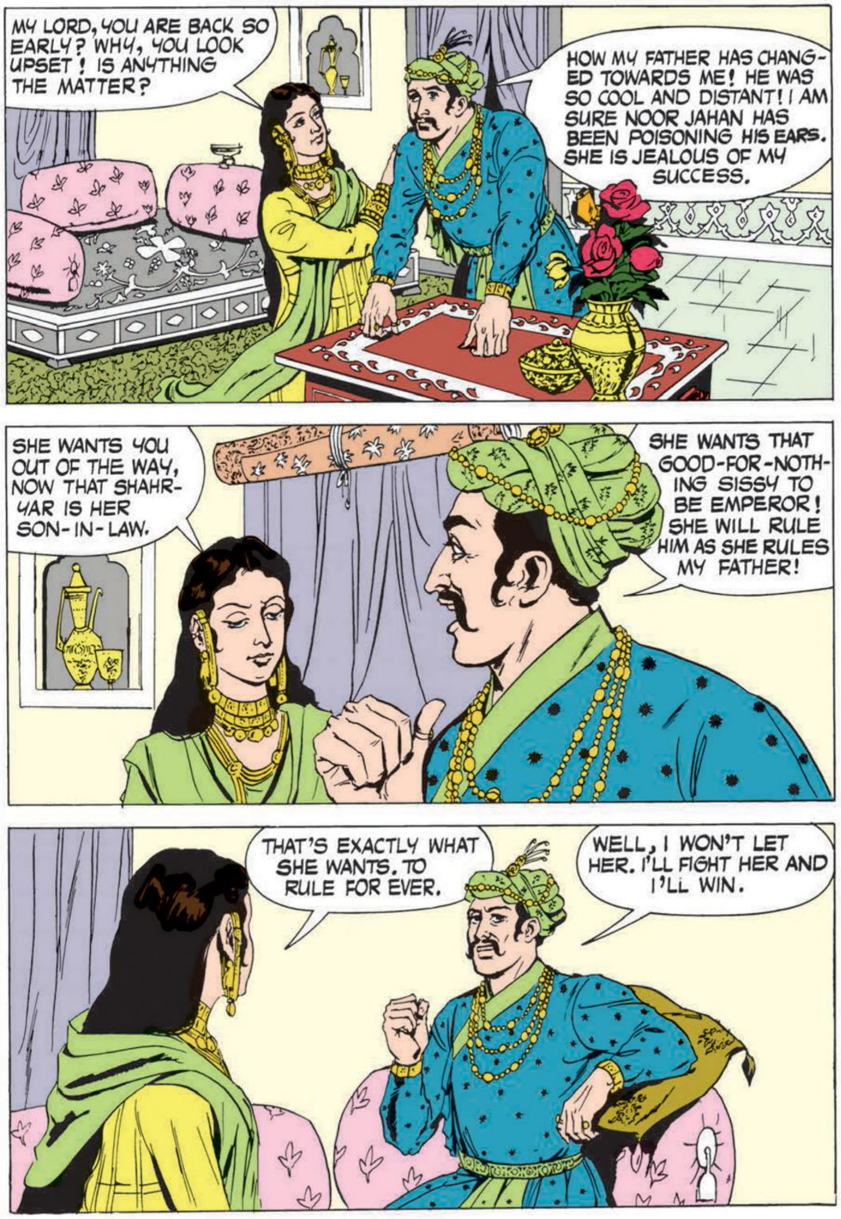

GOLD AND SILVER CUPS WERE BROKEN AND THE FRAGMENTS WERE GIVEN TO THE POOR.

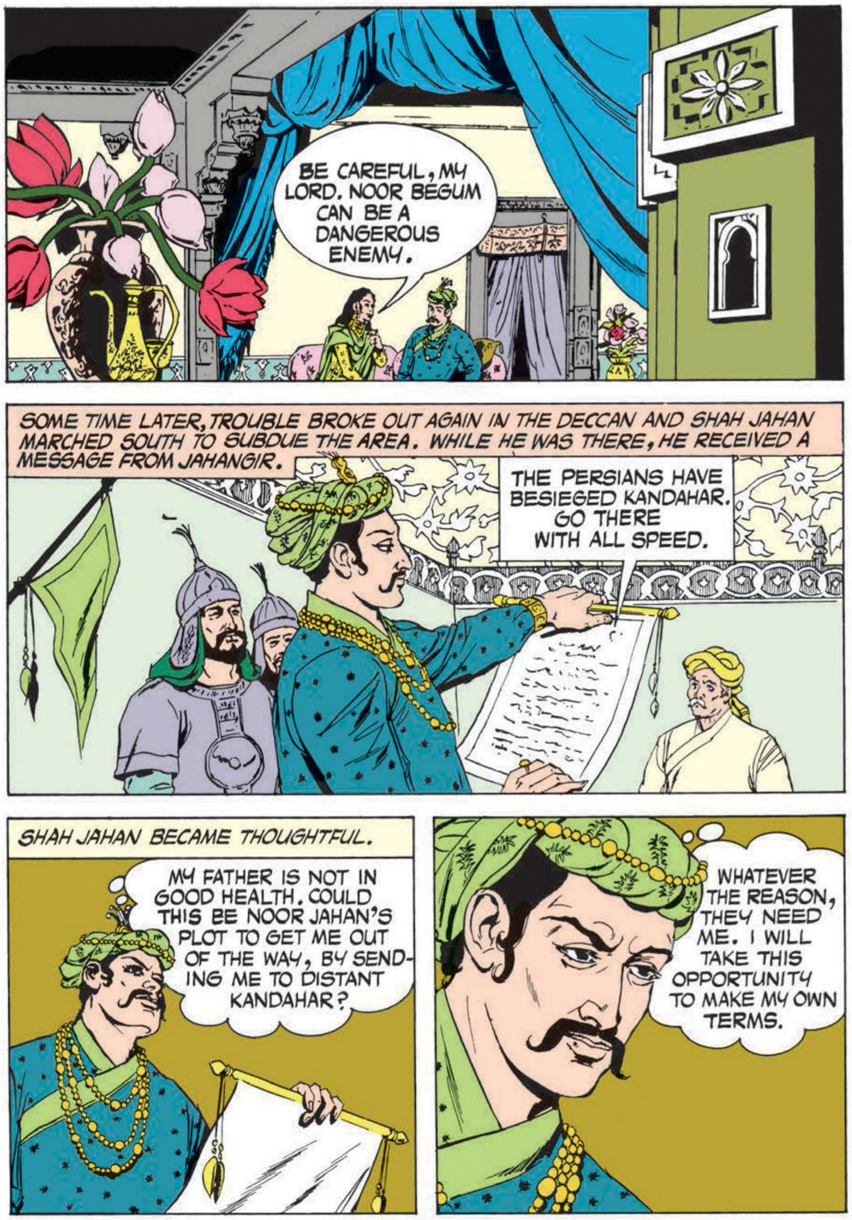

ONLY THEN DID SHAH JAHAN BEGIN HIS MARCH.

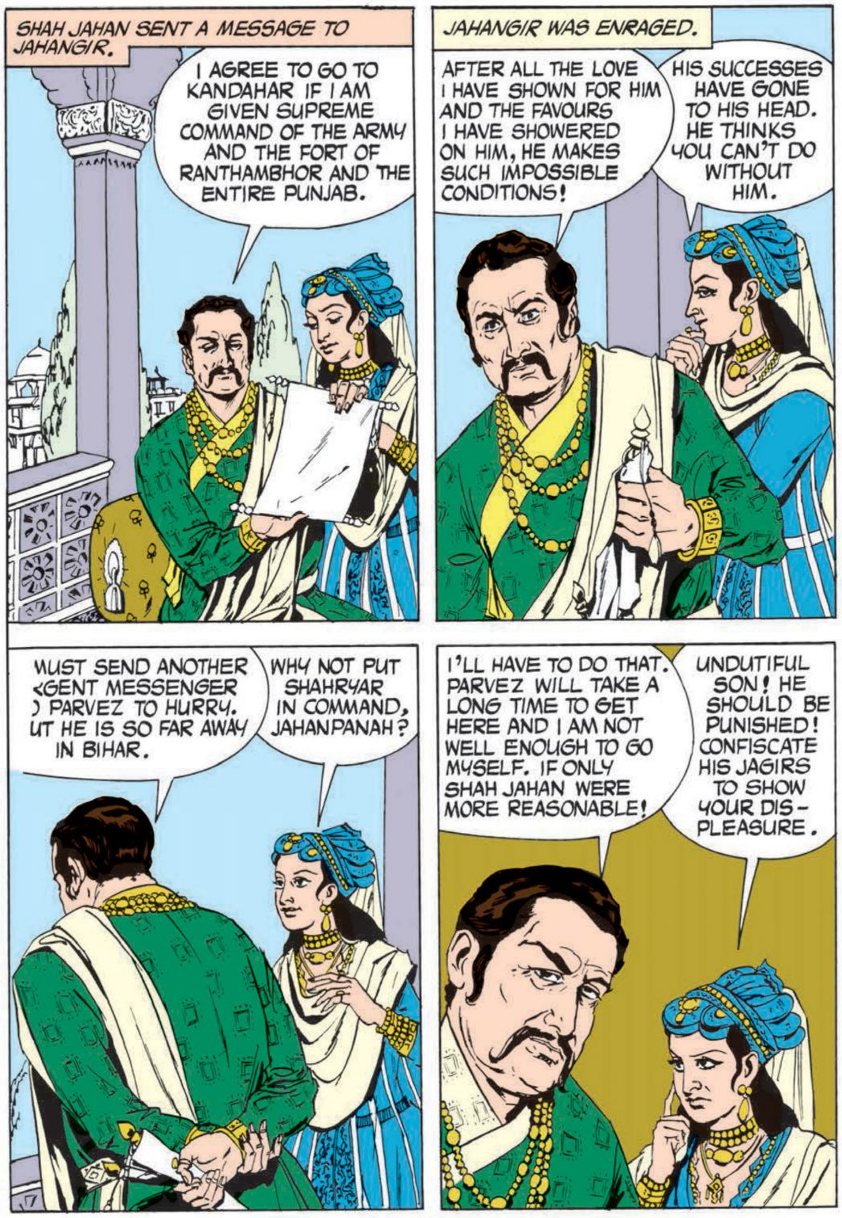

MEANWHILE IN THE DECCAN THE MUGHAL FORCES WERE ON THE RETREAT, PURSUED BY MALIK AMBAR'S CAVALRY—
WHEN SHAH JAHAN REACHED BURHANPUR, HE STOPPED TO HOLD A COUNCIL OF WAR.
IT LOOKS BAD. WE MUST DECIDE QUICKLY ON OUR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION.
WE ARE OUTNUMBERED AND OUTMANOEUVRED. IT WOULD BE BEST TO LIE LOW TILL AFTER THE MONSOON.
I DISAGREE! WE WILL SURPRISE THE ENEMY BY QUICK, DECISIVE BLOWS!
AS YOU SAY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
SUCCESS MADE MALIK AMBAR COMPLACENT.
I HEAR SHAH JAHAN HAS BEEN ADVISED BY HIS GENERALS TO RETREAT.
WHAT ELSE CAN HE DO?

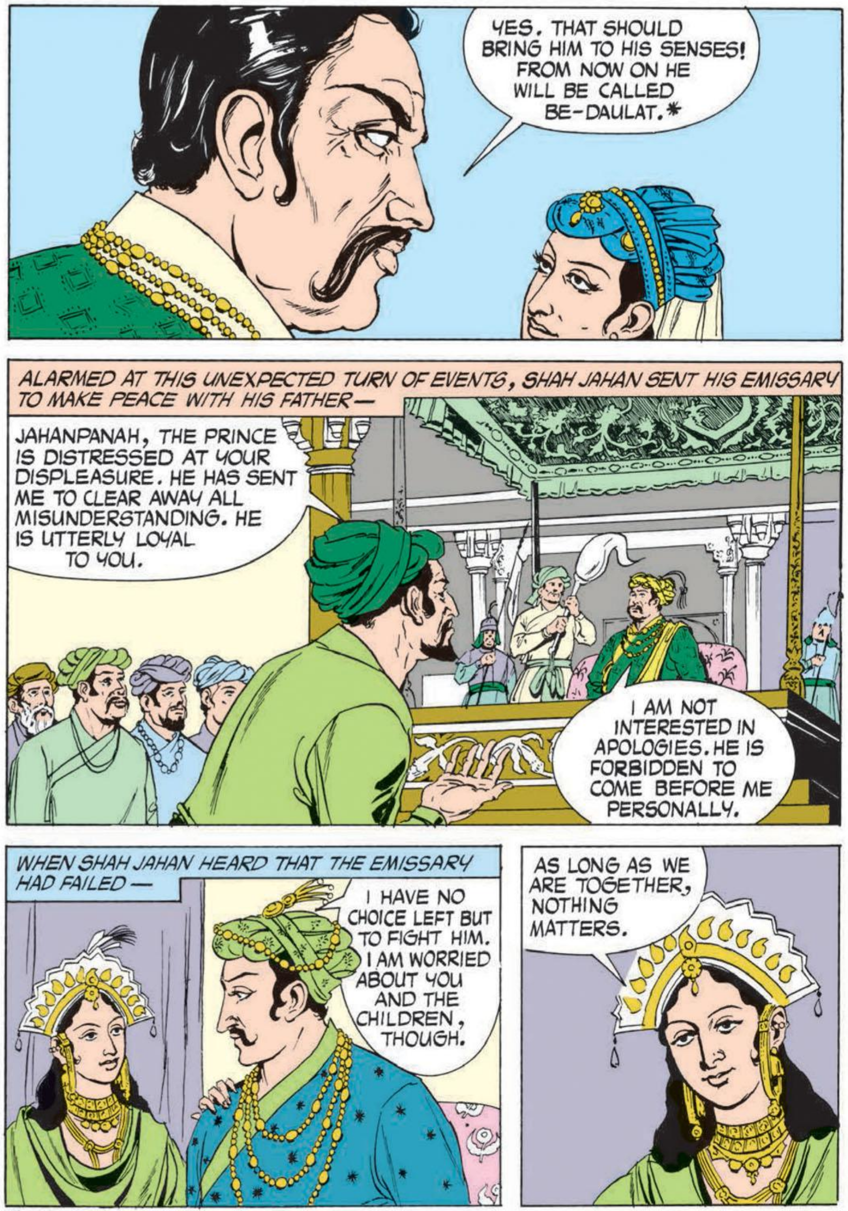

JUST THEN A MESSENGER CAME RUSHING IN.
THE MUGHALS ARE HERE! IT'S AN ATTACK!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, MALIK AMBAR WAS SEVERELY BEATEN BY THE MUGHALS.
SHAH JAHAN'S SURPRISE TACTICS HAD PAID OFF.
MALIK AMBAR HAS AGREED TO SURRENDER ALL OUR TERRITORIES IN THE DECCAN AND TO PAY 50,000 RUPEES AS TRIBUTE.
GOD BE THANKED AND MAY PEACE PREVAIL.


MEANWHILE NOOR JAHAN HAD BEGUN TO FAVOUR JAHANGIR'S YOUNGEST SON, SHAHRYAR, WHO WAS MARRIED TO HER DAUGHTER BY HER EARLIER MARRIAGE.
SHAH JAHAN HAS BECOME TOO POPULAR AND POWERFUL. HE MUST BE CURBED OR HE WILL UPSET MY PLANS FOR SHAHRYAR.
JUST THEN JAHANGIR CAME IN WITH THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE DECCAN —
MY SON HAS SUCCEEDED AGAIN! MALIK AMBAR HAS SUED FOR PEACE.
THIS VICTORY MIGHT PROVE AS HOLLOW AS THE LAST.
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.
NOOR JAHAN DROVE HER POINT HOME.
SHAH JAHAN, CAPABLE AS HE IS, IS NOT VERY RESPONSIBLE, JAHANPANAH. PERHAPS SHAHRYAR WOULD....
INFLUENCED BY NOOR JAHAN, JAHANGIR OFFERED A LUKEWARM RECEPTION TO THE HOMECOMING SON.
IT WAS A GREAT VICTORY, FATHER.
LET US HOPE IT LEADS TO AN ENDURING PEACE THIS TIME.

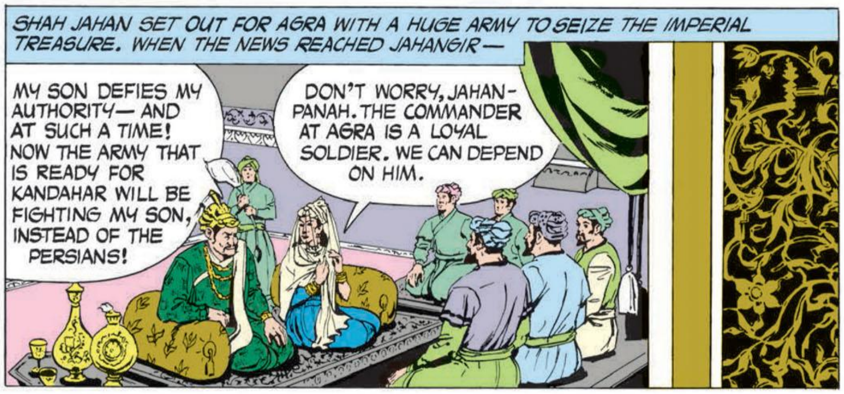

MY LORD, YOU ARE BACK SO EARLY? WHY, YOU LOOK UPSET! IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
HOW MY FATHER HAS CHANGED TOWARDS ME! HE WAS SO COOL AND DISTANT! I AM SURE NOOR JAHAN HAS BEEN POISONING HIS EARS. SHE IS JEALOUS OF MY SUCCESS.
SHE WANTS YOU OUT OF THE WAY, NOW THAT SHAHRYAR IS HER SON-IN-LAW.
SHE WANTS THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SISSY TO BE EMPEROR! SHE WILL RULE HIM AS SHE RULES MY FATHER!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTS. TO RULE FOR EVER.
WELL, I WON'T LET HER. I'LL FIGHT HER AND I'LL WIN.

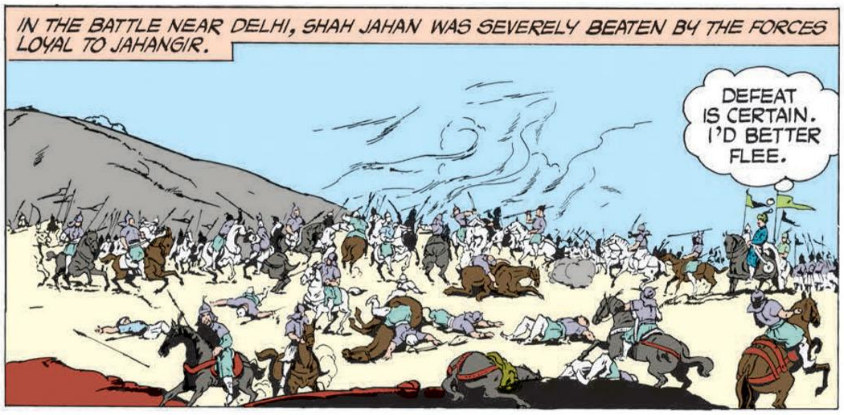

BE CAREFUL, MY LORD. NOOR BEGUM CAN BE A DANGEROUS ENEMY.
SOME TIME LATER, TROUBLE BROKE OUT AGAIN IN THE DECCAN AND SHAH JAHAN MARCHED SOUTH TO SUBDUE THE AREA. WHILE HE WAS THERE, HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM JAHANGIR.
THE PERSIANS HAVE BESIEGED KANDAHAR. GO THERE WITH ALL SPEED.
SHAH JAHAN BECAME THOUGHTFUL.
MY FATHER IS NOT IN GOOD HEALTH. COULD THIS BE NOOR JAHAN'S PLOT TO GET ME OUT OF THE WAY, BY SENDING ME TO DISTANT KANDAHAR?
WHATEVER THE REASON, THEY NEED ME. I WILL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MY OWN TERMS.

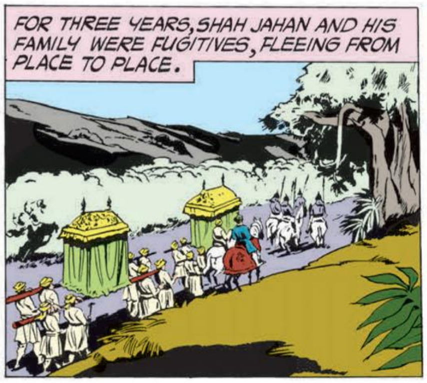

SHAH JAHAN SENT A MESSAGE TO JAHANGIR.
I AGREE TO GO TO KANDAHAR IF I AM GIVEN SUPREME COMMAND OF THE ARMY AND THE FORT OF RANTHAMBHOR AND THE ENTIRE PUNJAB.
JAHANGIR WAS ENRAGED.
AFTER ALL THE LOVE I HAVE SHOWN FOR HIM AND THE FAVOURS I HAVE SHOWERED ON HIM, HE MAKES SUCH IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS!
HIS SUCCESSES HAVE GONE TO HIS HEAD. HE THINKS YOU CAN'T DO WITHOUT HIM.
MUST SEND ANOTHER GENT MESSENGER PARVEZ TO HURRY. UT HE IS SO FAR AWAY IN BIHAR.
WHY NOT PUT SHAHRYAR IN COMMAND, JAHANPANAH?
17
I'LL HAVE TO DO THAT. PARVEZ WILL TAKE A LONG TIME TO GET HERE AND I AM NOT WELL ENOUGH TO GO MYSELF. IF ONLY SHAH JAHAN WERE MORE REASONABLE!
UNDUTIFUL SON! HE SHOULD BE PUNISHED! CONFISCATE HIS JAGIRS TO SHOW YOUR DISPLEASURE.

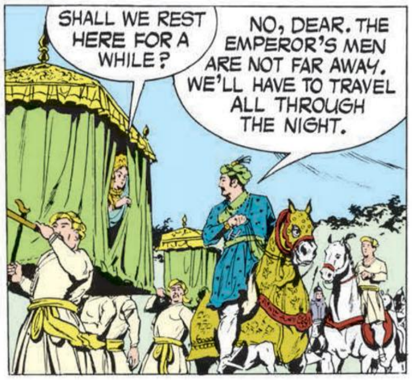

YES. THAT SHOULD BRING HIM TO HIS SENSES! FROM NOW ON HE WILL BE CALLED BE-DAULAT.*
ALARMED AT THIS UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS, SHAH JAHAN SENT HIS EMISSARY TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIS FATHER—
JAHANPANAH, THE PRINCE IS DISTRESSED AT YOUR DISPLEASURE. HE HAS SENT ME TO CLEAR AWAY ALL MISUNDERSTANDING. HE IS UTTERLY LOYAL TO YOU.
I AM NOT INTERESTED IN APOLOGIES. HE IS FORBIDDEN TO COME BEFORE ME PERSONALLY.
WHEN SHAH JAHAN HEARD THAT THE EMISSARY HAD FAILED —
I HAVE NO CHOICE LEFT BUT TO FIGHT HIM. I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND THE CHILDREN, THOUGH.
AS LONG AS WE ARE TOGETHER, NOTHING MATTERS.

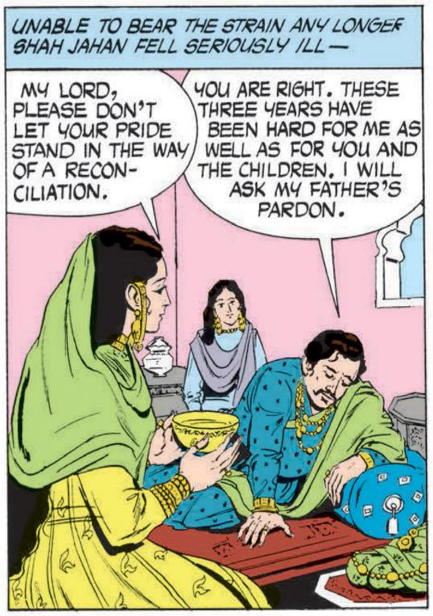
* WRETCH

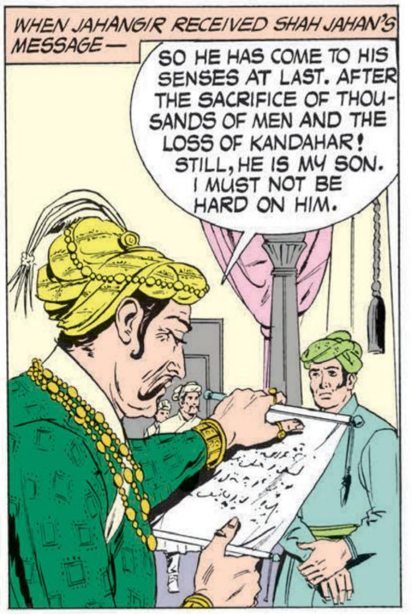

SHAH JAHAN SET OUT FOR AGRA WITH A HUGE ARMY TO SEIZE THE IMPERIAL TREASURE. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED JAHANGIR—
MY SON DEFIES MY AUTHORITY— AND AT SUCH A TIME! NOW THE ARMY THAT IS READY FOR KANDAHAR WILL BE FIGHTING MY SON, INSTEAD OF THE PERSIANS!
DON'T WORRY, JAHANPANAH. THE COMMANDER AT AGRA IS A LOYAL SOLDIER. WE CAN DEPEND ON HIM.

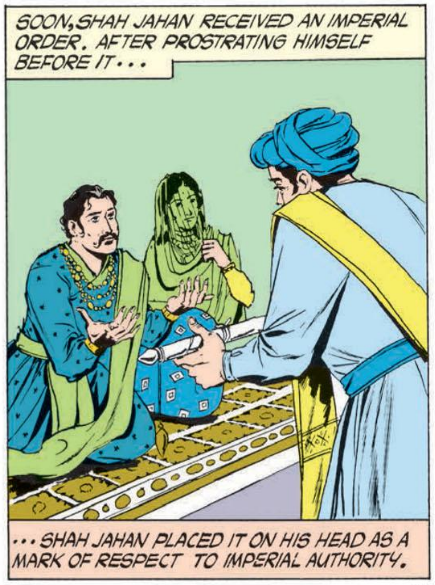

IN THE BATTLE NEAR DELHI, SHAH JAHAN WAS SEVERELY BEATEN BY THE FORCES LOYAL TO JAHANGIR.
DEFEAT IS CERTAIN. I'D BETTER FLEE.

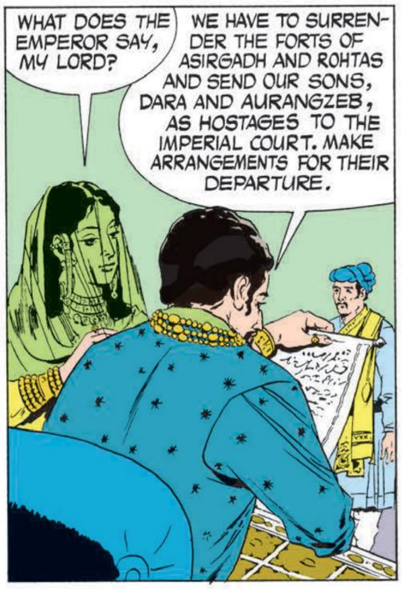

FOR THREE YEARS, SHAH JAHAN AND HIS FAMILY WERE FUGITIVES, FLEEING FROM PLACE TO PLACE.

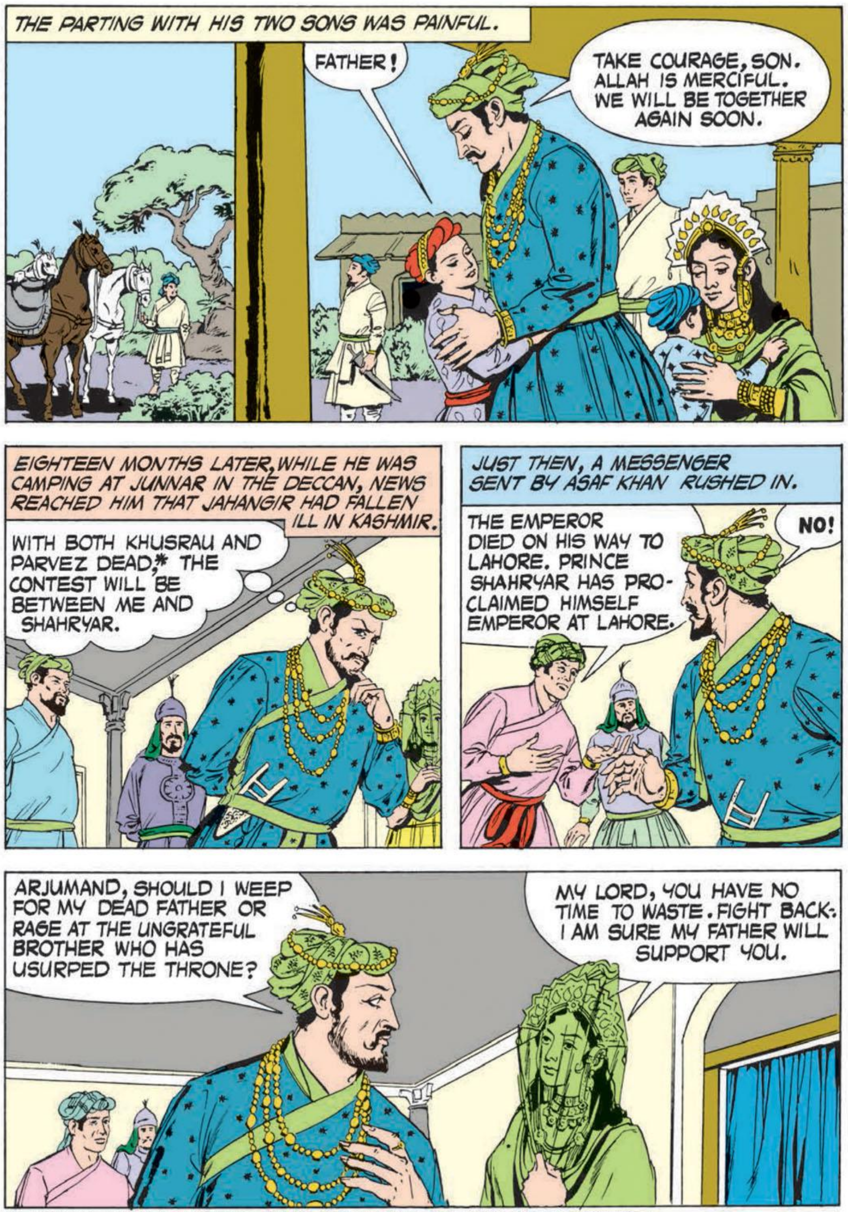

SHALL WE REST HERE FOR A WHILE?
NO, DEAR. THE EMPEROR'S MEN ARE NOT FAR AWAY. WE'LL HAVE TO TRAVEL ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT.


UNABLE TO BEAR THE STRAIN ANY LONGER SHAH JAHAN FELL SERIOUSLY ILL —
MY LORD, PLEASE DON'T LET YOUR PRIDE STAND IN THE WAY OF A RECONCILIATION.
YOU ARE RIGHT. THESE THREE YEARS HAVE BEEN HARD FOR ME AS WELL AS FOR YOU AND THE CHILDREN. I WILL ASK MY FATHER'S PARDON.

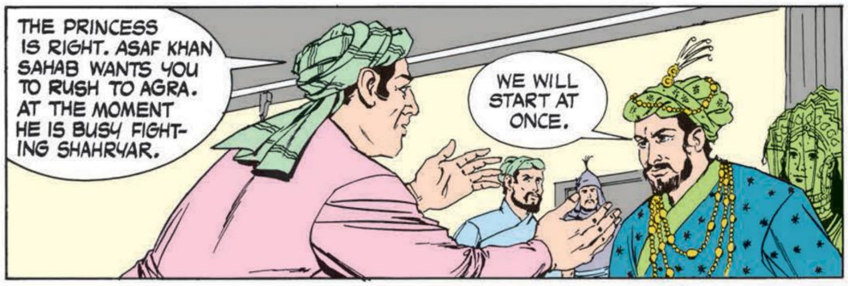

WHEN JAHANGIR RECEIVED SHAH JAHAN'S MESSAGE —
SO HE HAS COME TO HIS SENSES AT LAST. AFTER THE SACRIFICE OF THOUSANDS OF MEN AND THE LOSS OF KANDAHAR! STILL, HE IS MY SON. I MUST NOT BE HARD ON HIM.

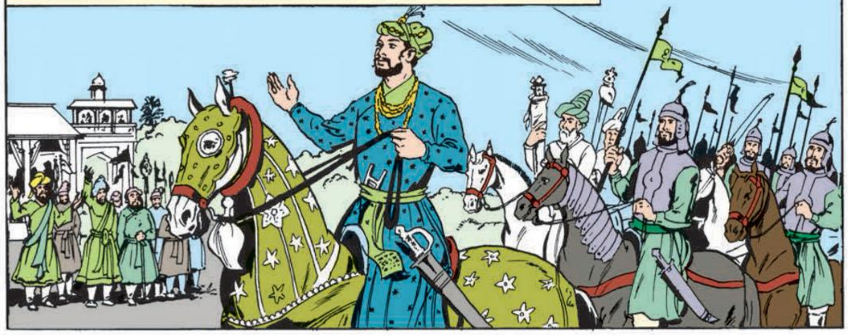

SOON, SHAH JAHAN RECEIVED AN IMPERIAL ORDER. AFTER PROSTRATING HIMSELF BEFORE IT . . .
. . . SHAH JAHAN PLACED IT ON HIS HEAD AS A MARK OF RESPECT TO IMPERIAL AUTHORITY.

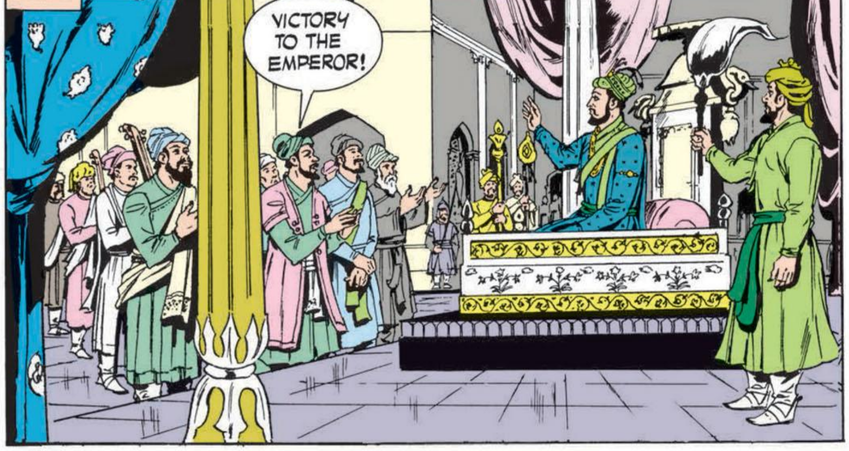

WHAT DOES THE EMPEROR SAY, MY LORD?
WE HAVE TO SURRENDER THE FORTS OF ASIRGADH AND ROHTAS AND SEND OUR SONS, DARA AND AURANGZEB, AS HOSTAGES TO THE IMPERIAL COURT. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR DEPARTURE.


THE PARTING WITH HIS TWO SONS WAS PAINFUL.
FATHER!
TAKE COURAGE, SON. ALLAH IS MERCIFUL. WE WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN SOON.
EIGHTEEN MONTHS LATER, WHILE HE WAS CAMPING AT JUNNAR IN THE DECCAN, NEWS REACHED HIM THAT JAHANGIR HAD FALLEN ILL IN KASHMIR.
WITH BOTH KHUSRAU AND PARVEZ DEAD,* THE CONTEST WILL BE BETWEEN ME AND SHAHRYAR.
JUST THEN, A MESSENGER SENT BY ASAF KHAN RUSHED IN.
THE EMPEROR DIED ON HIS WAY TO LAHORE. PRINCE SHAHRYAR HAS PROCLAIMED HIMSELF EMPEROR AT LAHORE.
NO!
ARJUMAND, SHOULD I WEEP FOR MY DEAD FATHER OR RAGE AT THE UNGRATEFUL BROTHER WHO HAS USURPED THE THRONE?
MY LORD, YOU HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE. FIGHT BACK. I AM SURE MY FATHER WILL SUPPORT YOU.

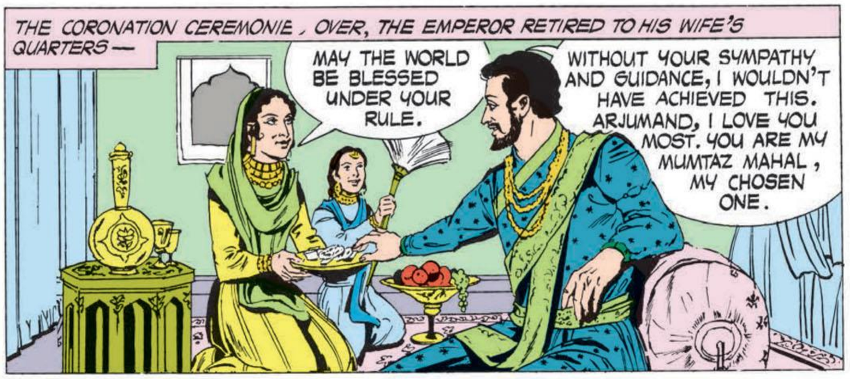
* PRINCE KHUSRAU HAD DIED IN 1622 AND PRINCE PARVEZ IN 1626

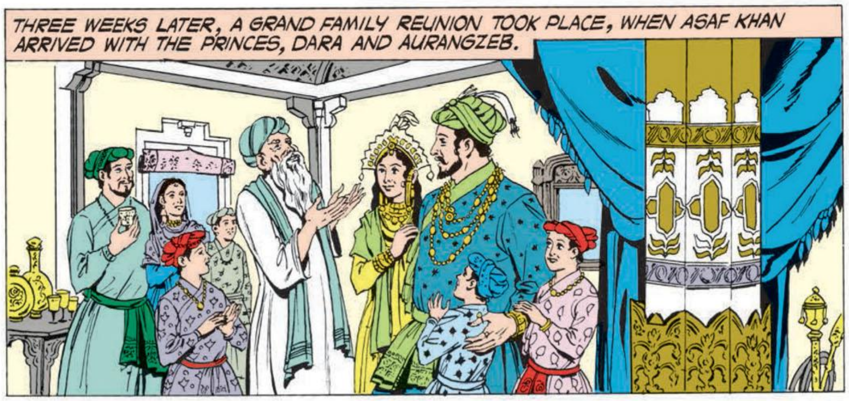

THE PRINCESS IS RIGHT. ASAF KHAN SAHAB WANTS YOU TO RUSH TO AGRA. AT THE MOMENT HE IS BUSY FIGHTING SHAHRYAR.
WE WILL START AT ONCE.

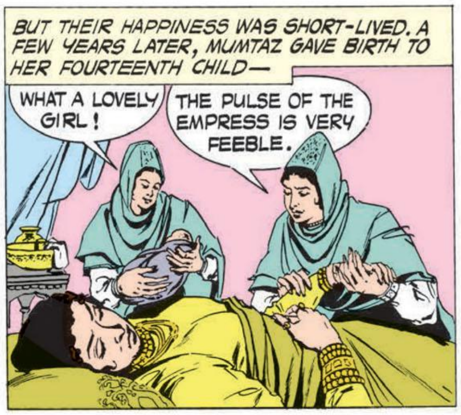

BEFORE SHAH JAHAN REACHED AGRA, ASAF KHAN HAD OVERCOME SHAHRYAR. SHAH JAHAN'S MARCH NOW WAS LIKE A VICTORY PROCESSION.

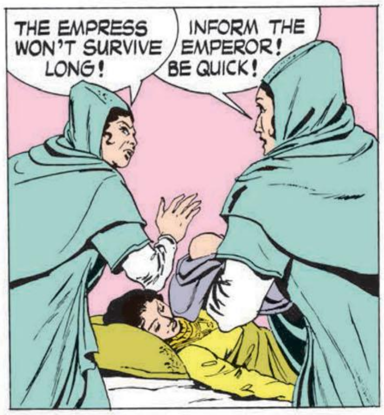

ON FEBRUARY 24, 1628, THE CORONATION OF THE NEW EMPEROR TOOK PLACE AT AGRA.

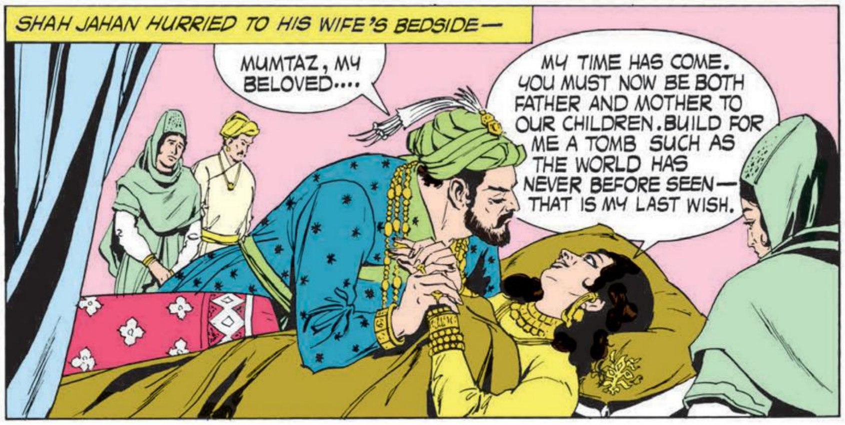
VICTORY TO THE EMPEROR!


THE CORONATION CEREMONIES, OVER, THE EMPEROR RETIRED TO HIS WIFE'S QUARTERS —
MAY THE WORLD BE BLESSED UNDER YOUR RULE.
WITHOUT YOUR SYMPATHY AND GUIDANCE, I WOULDN'T HAVE ACHIEVED THIS. ARJUMAND, I LOVE YOU MOST. YOU ARE MY MUMTAZ MAHAL, MY CHOSEN ONE.


THREE WEEKS LATER, A GRAND FAMILY REUNION TOOK PLACE, WHEN ASAF KHAN ARRIVED WITH THE PRINCES, DARA AND AURANGZEB.

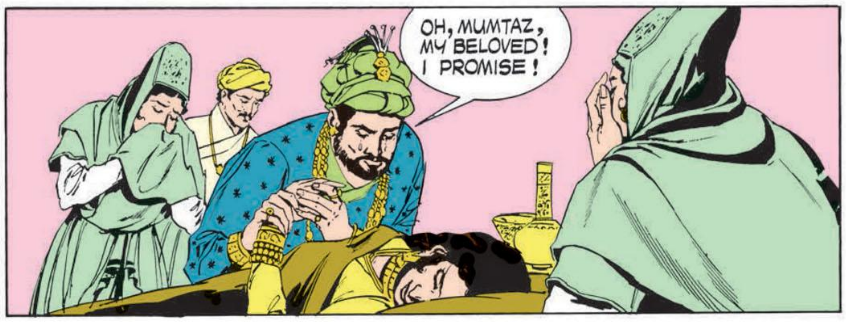

BUT THEIR HAPPINESS WAS SHORT-LIVED. A FEW YEARS LATER, MUMTAZ GAVE BIRTH TO HER FOURTEENTH CHILD—
WHAT A LOVELY GIRL!
THE PULSE OF THE EMPRESS IS VERY FEEBLE.


THE EMPRESS WON'T SURVIVE LONG!
INFORM THE EMPEROR! BE QUICK!

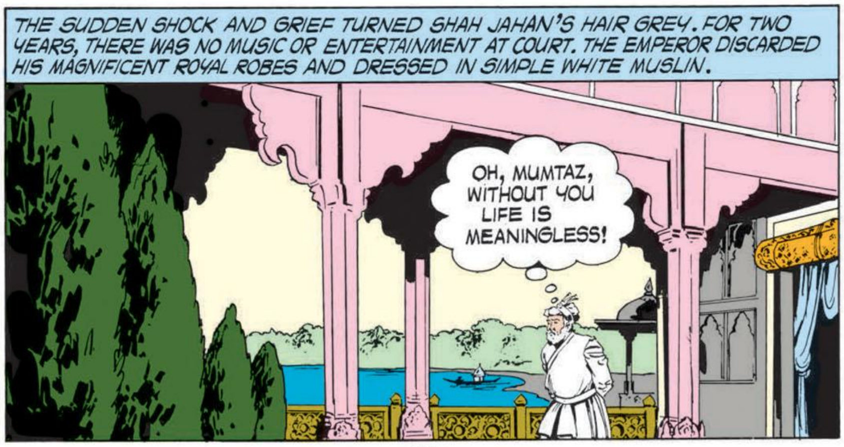


SHAH JAHAN HURRIED TO HIS WIFE'S BEDSIDE—

MUMTAZ, MY BELOVED....
MY TIME HAS COME. YOU MUST NOW BE BOTH FATHER AND MOTHER TO OUR CHILDREN. BUILD FOR ME A TOMB SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEFORE SEEN— THAT IS MY LAST WISH.

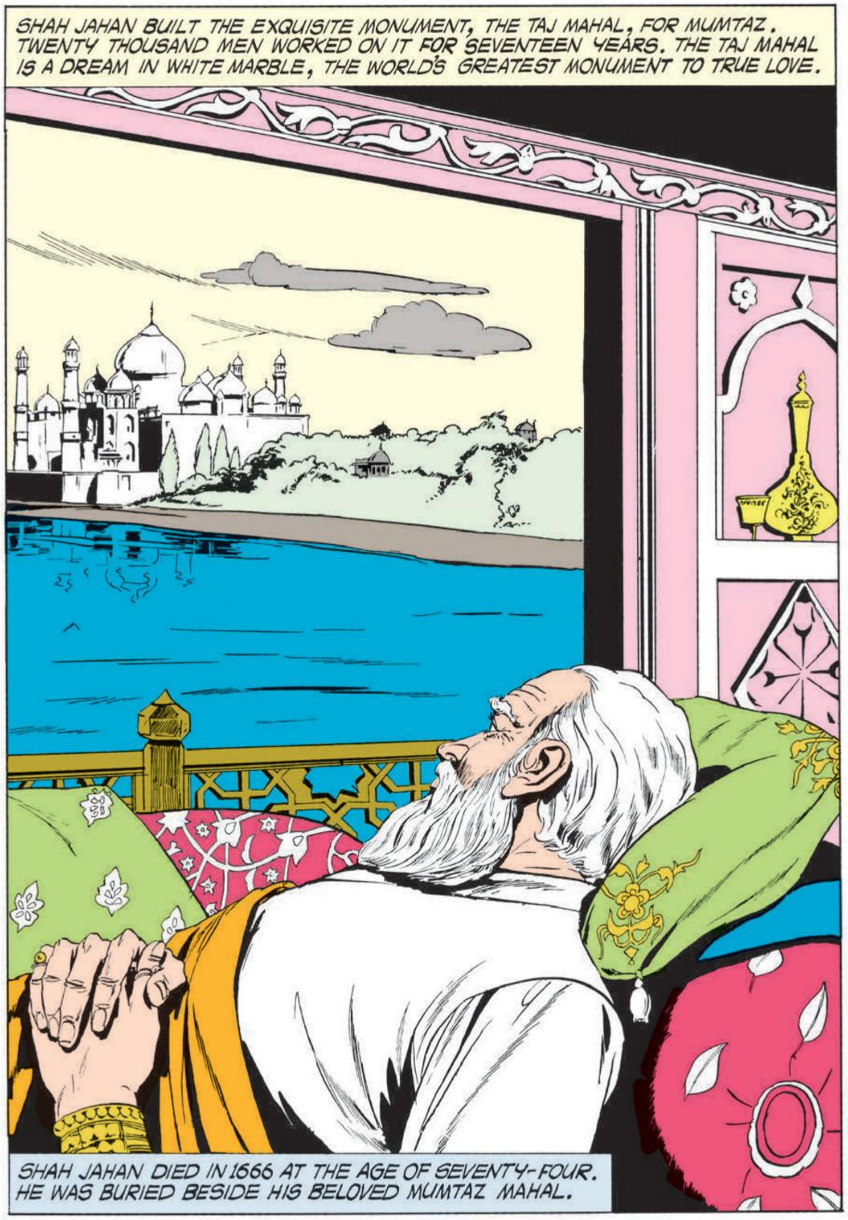


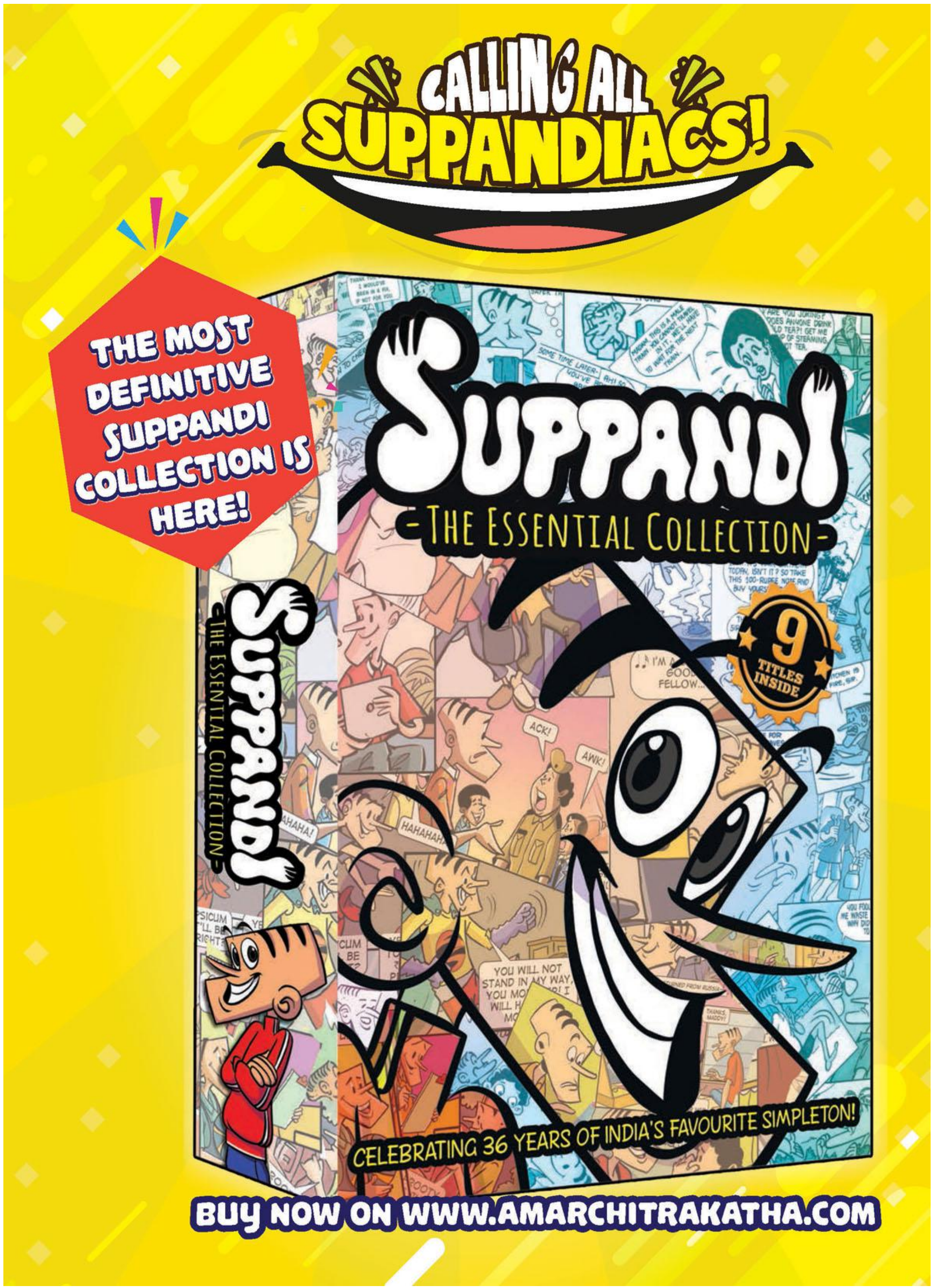
OH, MUMTAZ, MY BELOVED! I PROMISE!



THE SUDDEN SHOCK AND GRIEF TURNED SHAH JAHAN'S HAIR GREY. FOR TWO YEARS, THERE WAS NO MUSIC OR ENTERTAINMENT AT COURT. THE EMPEROR DISCARDED HIS MAGNIFICENT ROYAL ROBES AND DRESSED IN SIMPLE WHITE MUSLIN.

OH, MUMTAZ, WITHOUT YOU LIFE IS MEANINGLESS!


SHAH JAHAN BUILT THE EXQUISITE MONUMENT, THE TAJ MAHAL, FOR MUMTAZ. TWENTY THOUSAND MEN WORKED ON IT FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS. THE TAJ MAHAL IS A DREAM IN WHITE MARBLE, THE WORLD'S GREATEST MONUMENT TO TRUE LOVE.
SHAH JAHAN DIED IN 1666 AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY-FOUR. HE WAS BURIED BESIDE HIS BELOVED MUMTAZ MAHAL.


CALLING ALL
SUPPANDIACS!
THE MOST DEFINITIVE SUPPANDI COLLECTION IS HERE!
SUPPANDI
- THE ESSENTIAL COLLECTION -
9 TITLES INSIDE
CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDIA'S FAVOURITE SIMPLETON!
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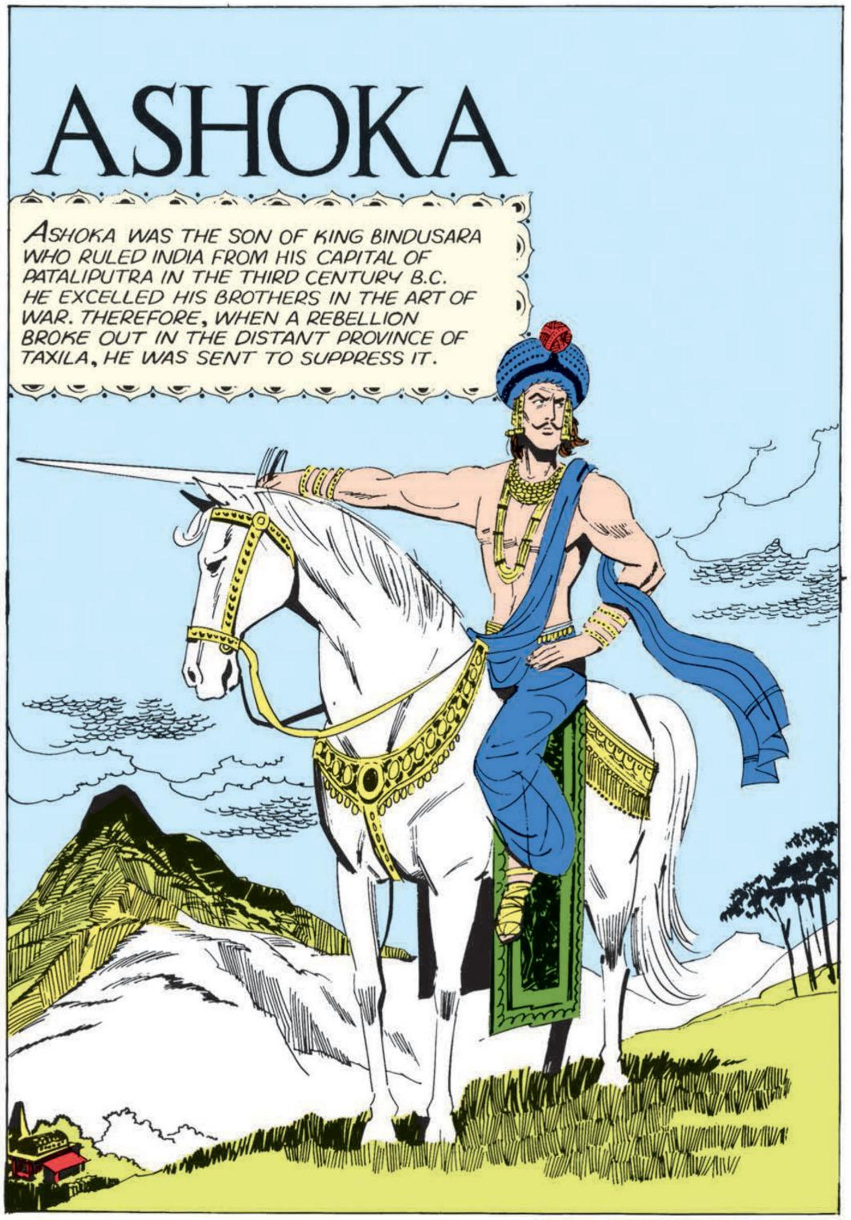
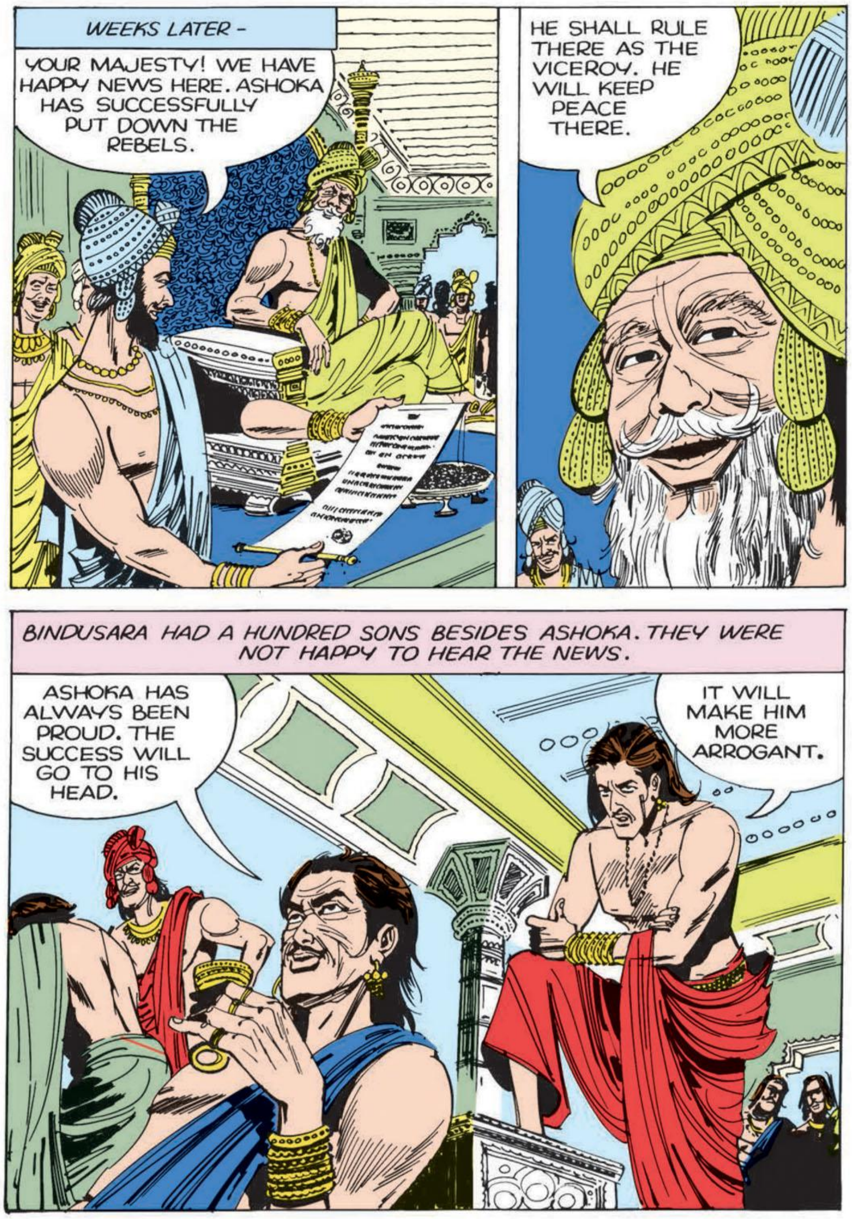
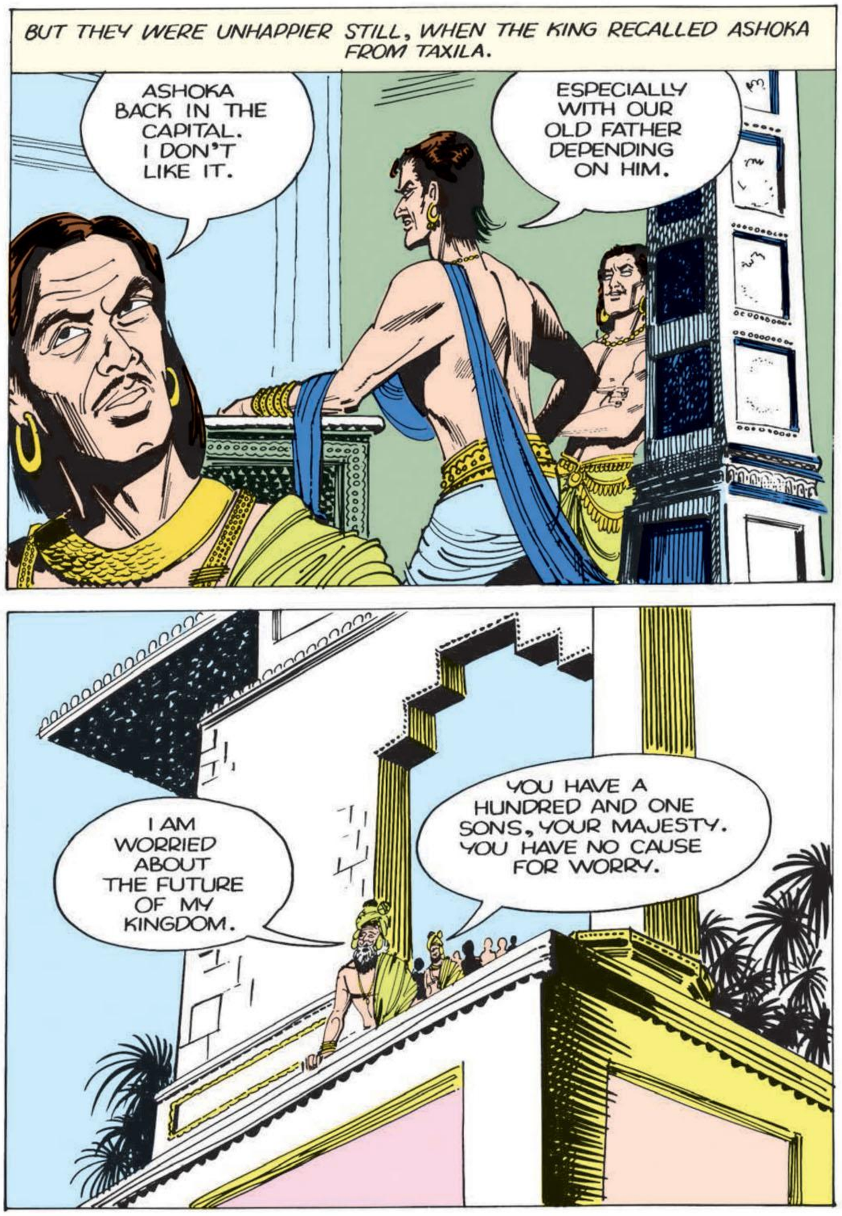
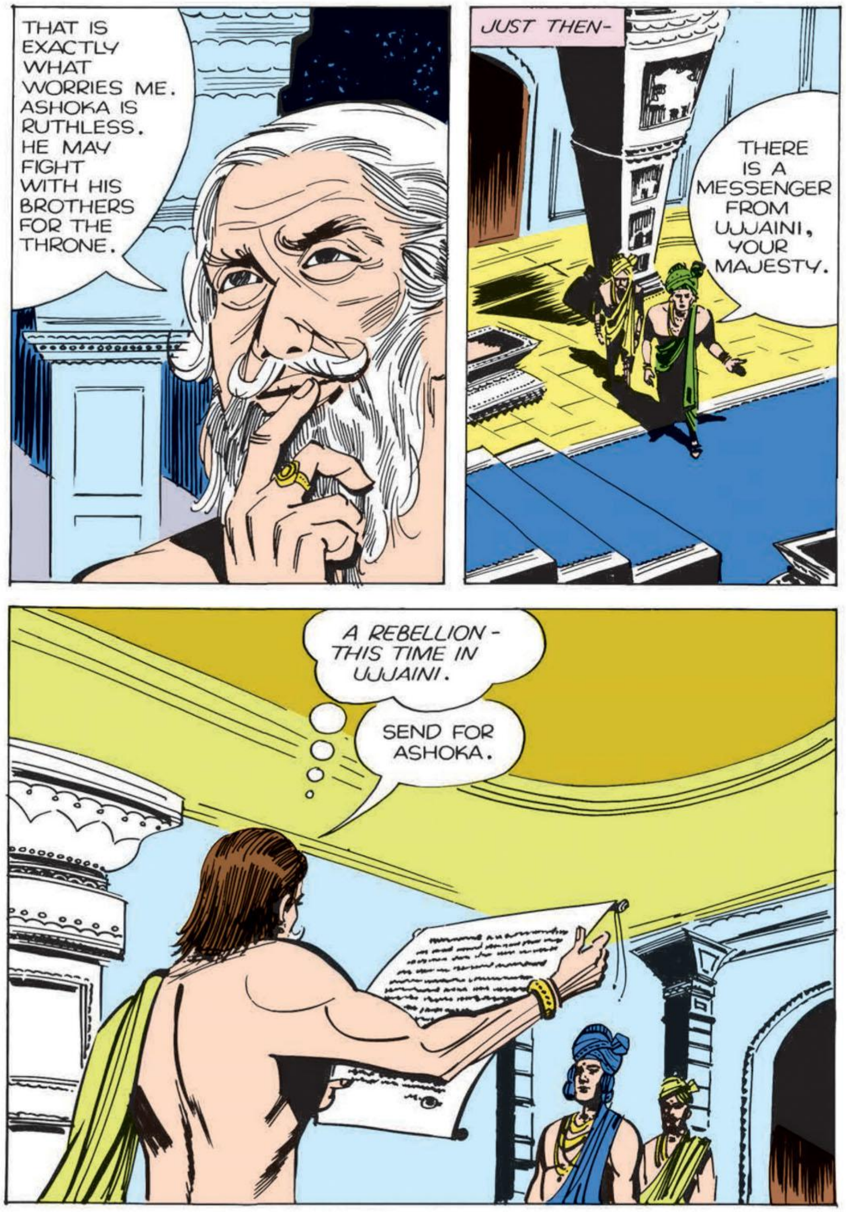
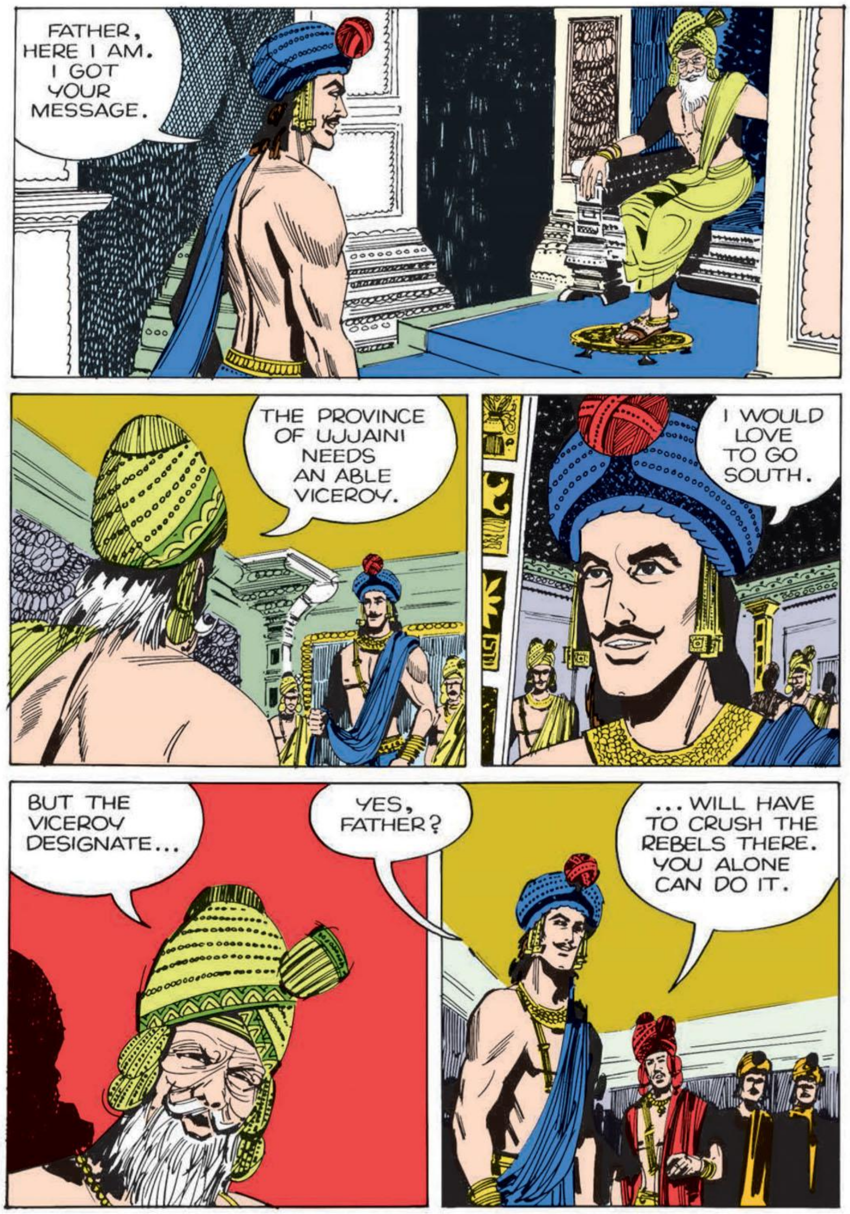
# ASHOKA

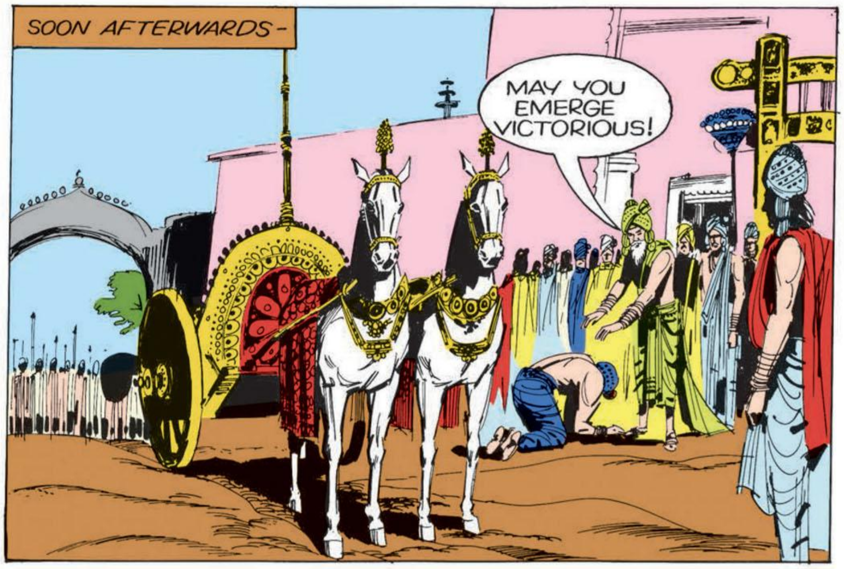

ASHOKA WAS THE SON OF KING BINDUSARA WHO RULED INDIA FROM HIS CAPITAL OF PATALIPUTRA IN THE THIRD CENTURY B.C. HE EXCELLED HIS BROTHERS IN THE ART OF WAR. THEREFORE, WHEN A REBELLION BROKE OUT IN THE DISTANT PROVINCE OF TAXILA, HE WAS SENT TO SUPPRESS IT.

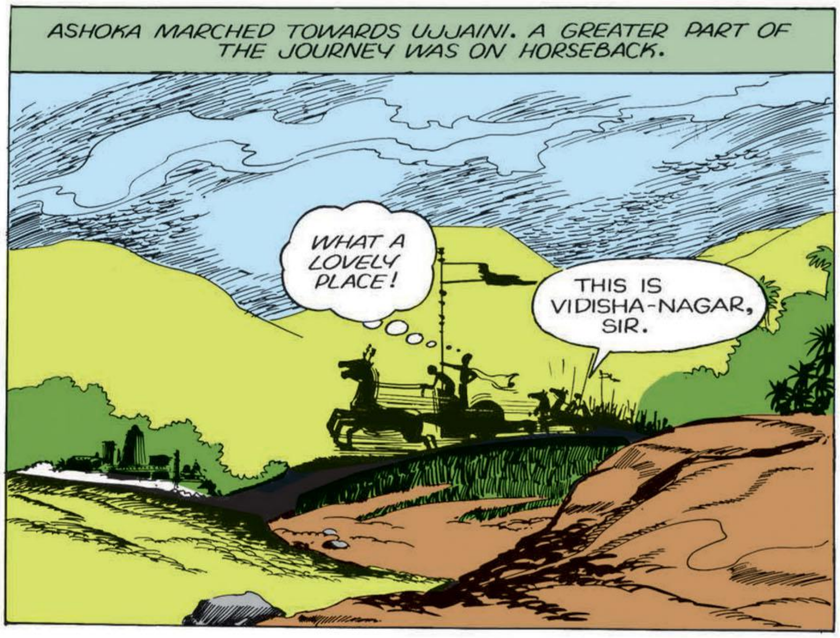

WEEKS LATER -
YOUR MAJESTY! WE HAVE HAPPY NEWS HERE. ASHOKA HAS SUCCESSFULLY PUT DOWN THE REBELS.
HE SHALL RULE THERE AS THE VICEROY. HE WILL KEEP PEACE THERE.
BINDUSARA HAD A HUNDRED SONS BESIDES ASHOKA. THEY WERE NOT HAPPY TO HEAR THE NEWS.
ASHOKA HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROUD. THE SUCCESS WILL GO TO HIS HEAD.
IT WILL MAKE HIM MORE ARROGANT.

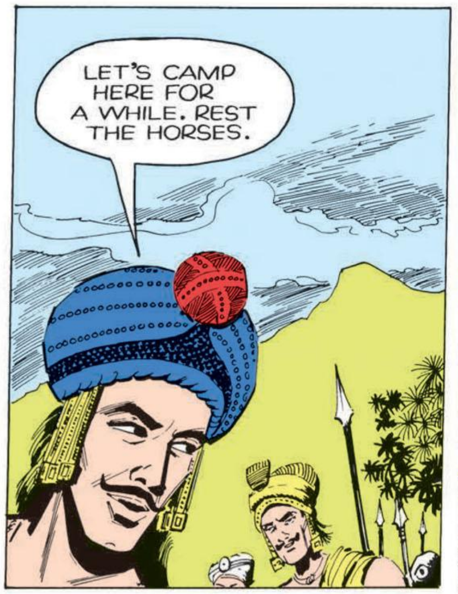

BUT THEY WERE UNHAPPIER STILL, WHEN THE KING RECALLED ASHOKA FROM TAXILA.
ASHOKA BACK IN THE CAPITAL. I DON'T LIKE IT.
ESPECIALLY WITH OUR OLD FATHER DEPENDING ON HIM.
I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MY KINGDOM.
YOU HAVE A HUNDRED AND ONE SONS, YOUR MAJESTY. YOU HAVE NO CAUSE FOR WORRY.

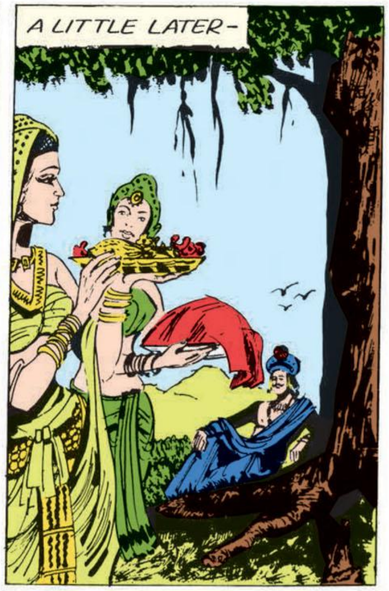

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WORRIES ME. ASHOKA IS RUTHLESS. HE MAY FIGHT WITH HIS BROTHERS FOR THE THRONE.
JUST THEN-
THERE IS A MESSENGER FROM UJJAINI, YOUR MAJESTY.
A REBELLION - THIS TIME IN UJJAINI.
SEND FOR ASHOKA.

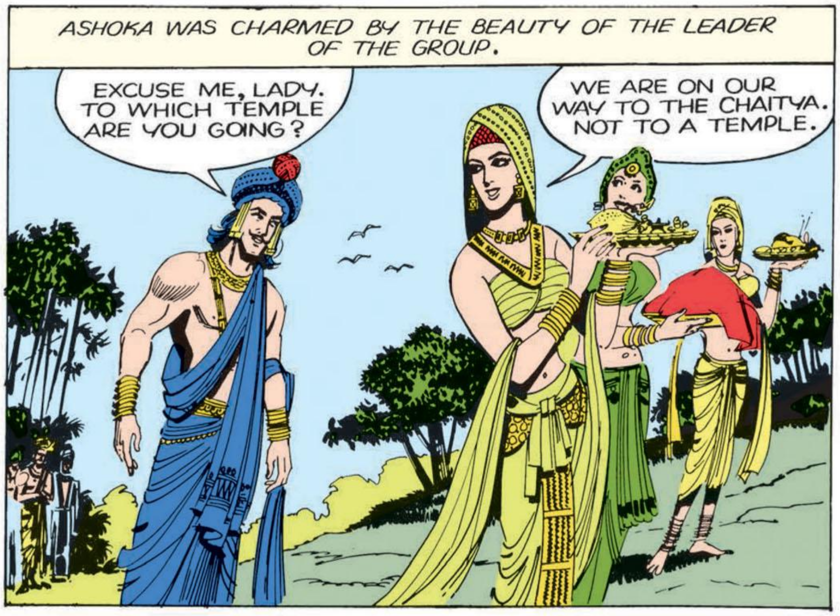

FATHER, HERE I AM. I GOT YOUR MESSAGE.
THE PROVINCE OF UJJAINI NEEDS AN ABLE VICEROY.
I WOULD LOVE TO GO SOUTH.
BUT THE VICEROY DESIGNATE...
YES, FATHER?
... WILL HAVE TO CRUSH THE REBELS THERE. YOU ALONE CAN DO IT.

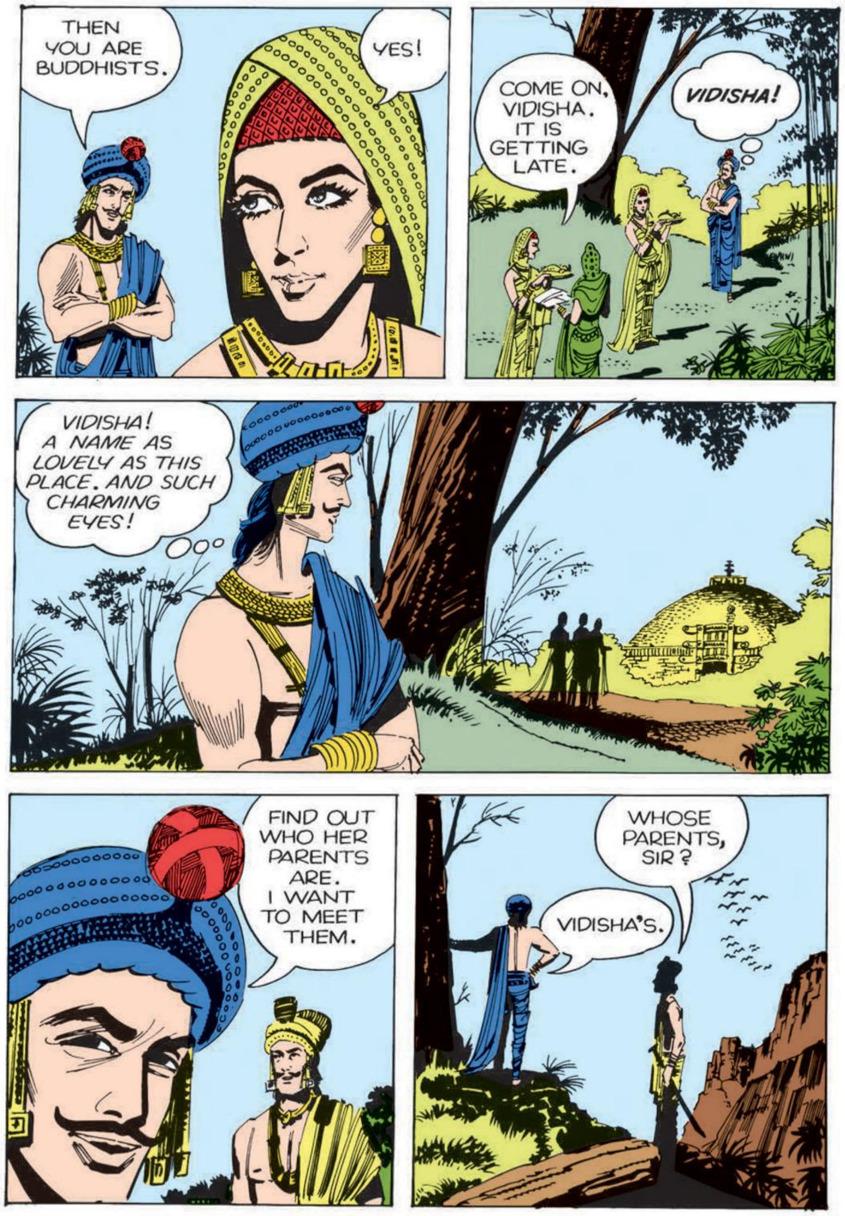

SOON AFTERWARDS-
MAY YOU EMERGE VICTORIOUS!

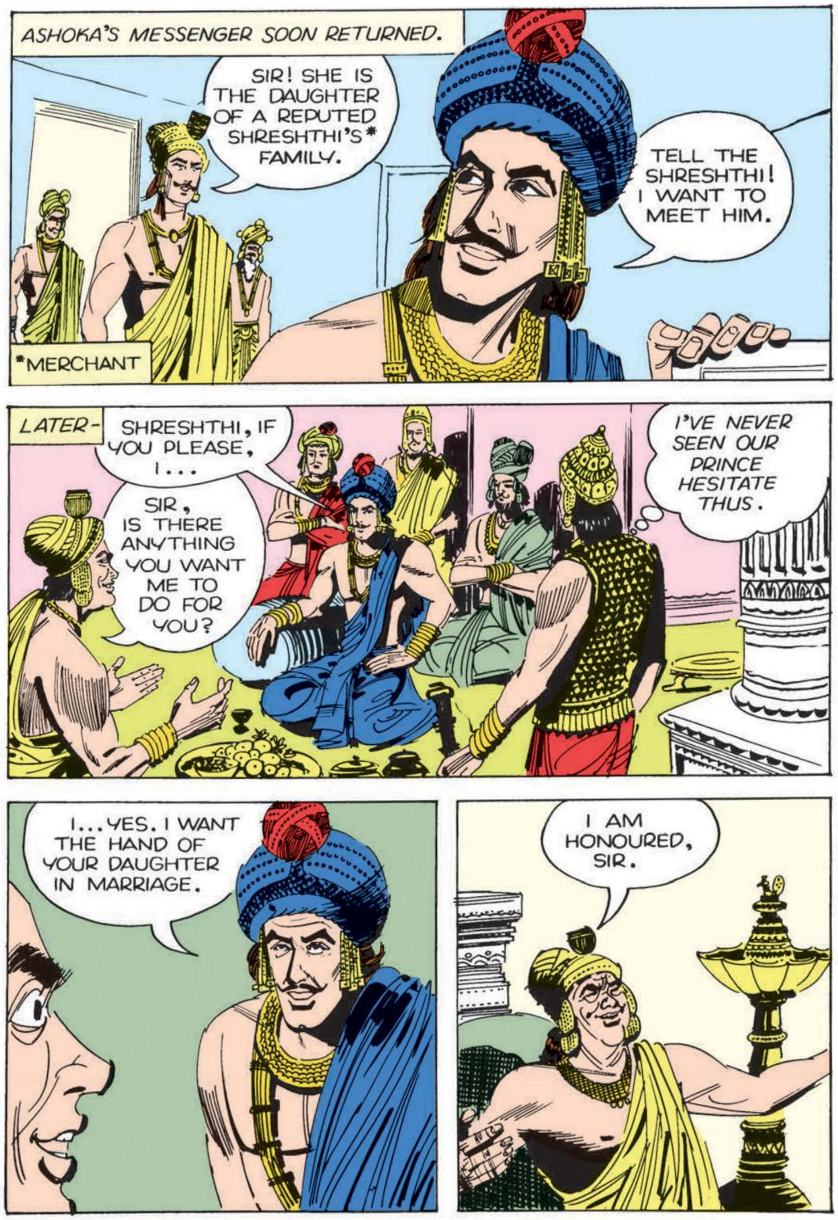

ASHOKA MARCHED TOWARDS UJJAINI. A GREATER PART OF THE JOURNEY WAS ON HORSEBACK.
WHAT A LOVELY PLACE!
THIS IS VIDISHA-NAGAR, SIR.

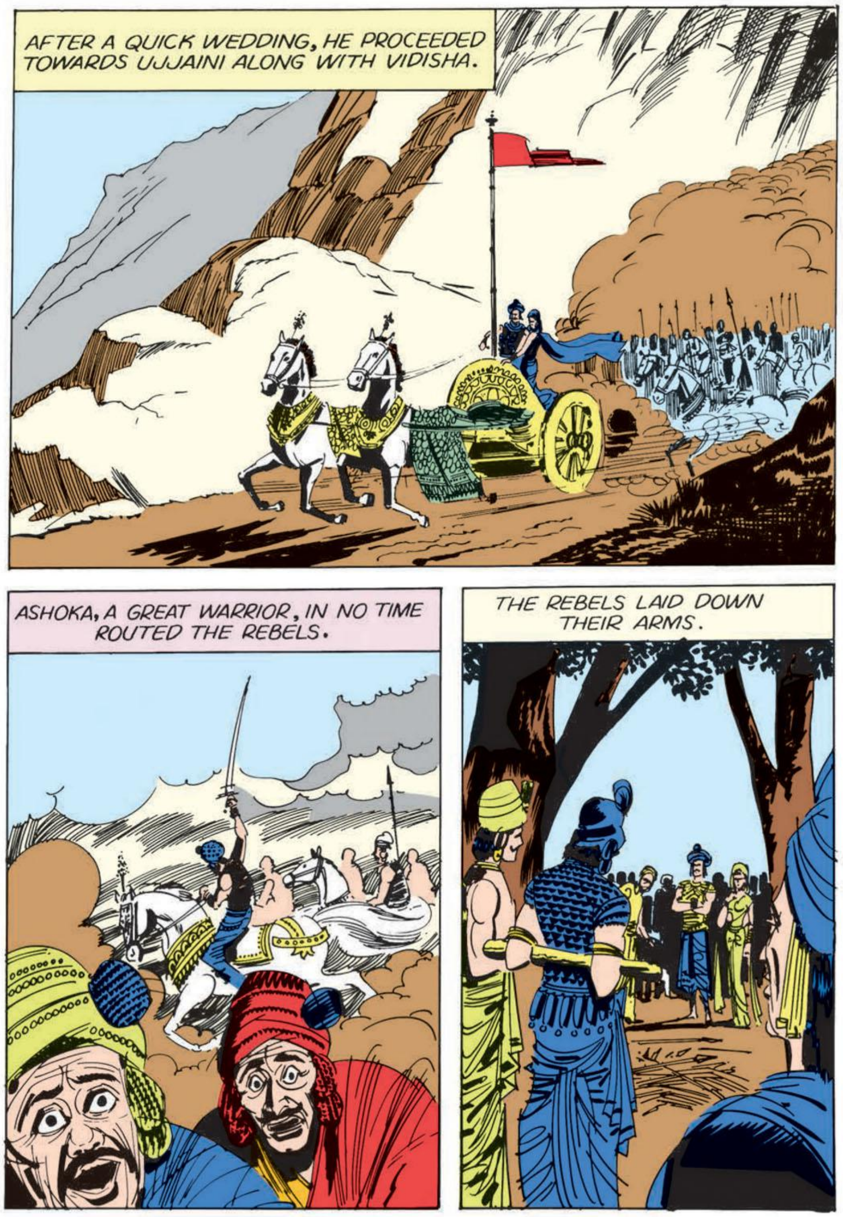

LET'S CAMP HERE FOR A WHILE. REST THE HORSES.

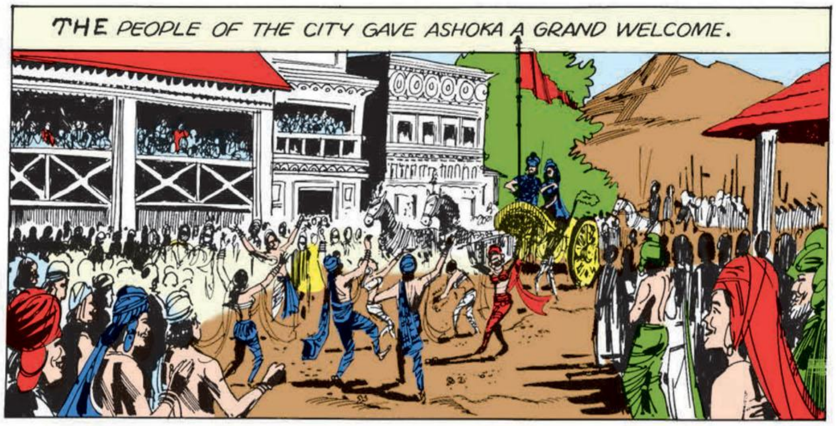

A LITTLE LATER–

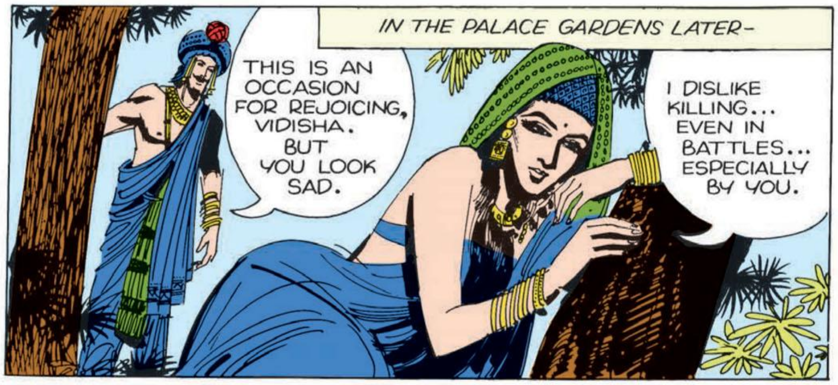

ASHOKA WAS CHARMED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE LEADER OF THE GROUP.
EXCUSE ME, LADY. TO WHICH TEMPLE ARE YOU GOING?
WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO THE CHAITYA. NOT TO A TEMPLE.

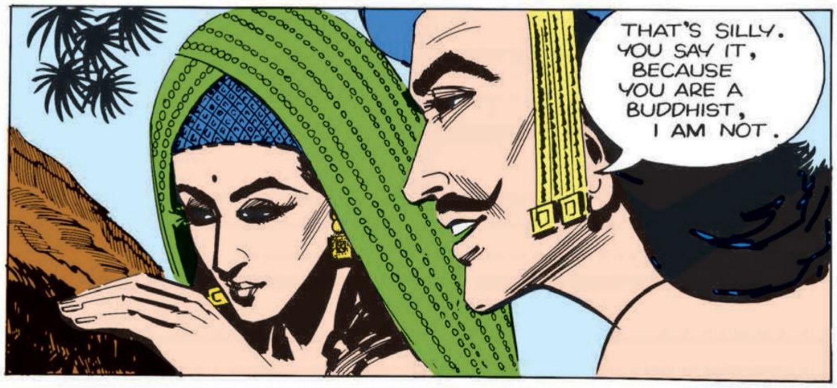

THEN YOU ARE BUDDHISTS.
YES!
COME ON, VIDISHA. IT IS GETTING LATE.
VIDISHA!
VIDISHA! A NAME AS LOVELY AS THIS PLACE. AND SUCH CHARMING EYES!
FIND OUT WHO HER PARENTS ARE. I WANT TO MEET THEM.
WHOSE PARENTS, SIR?
VIDISHA'S.

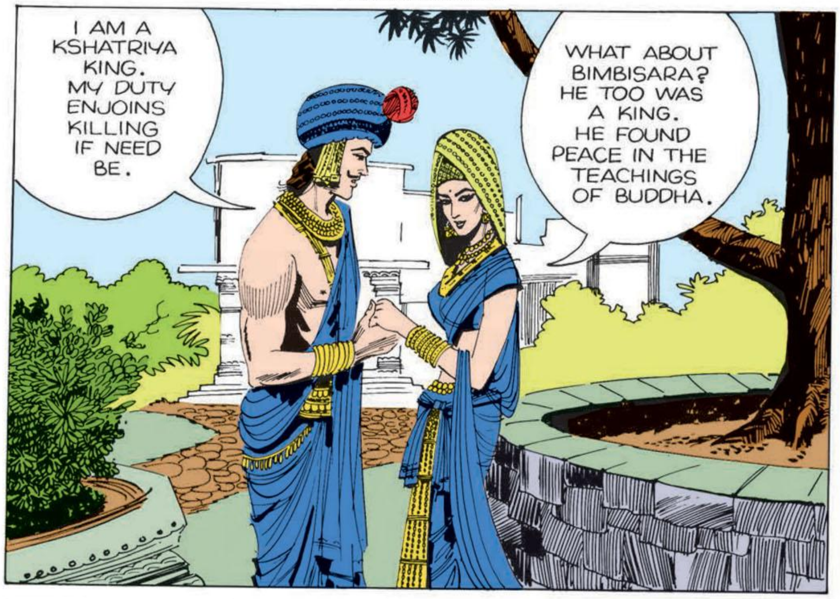

ASHOKA'S MESSENGER SOON RETURNED.
SIR! SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A REPUTED SHRESHTHI'S* FAMILY.
TELL THE SHRESHTHI! I WANT TO MEET HIM.
*MERCHANT
LATER-
SHRESHTHI, IF YOU PLEASE, I...
SIR, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?
I'VE NEVER SEEN OUR PRINCE HESITATE THUS.
I...YES. I WANT THE HAND OF YOUR DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE.
I AM HONOURED, SIR.

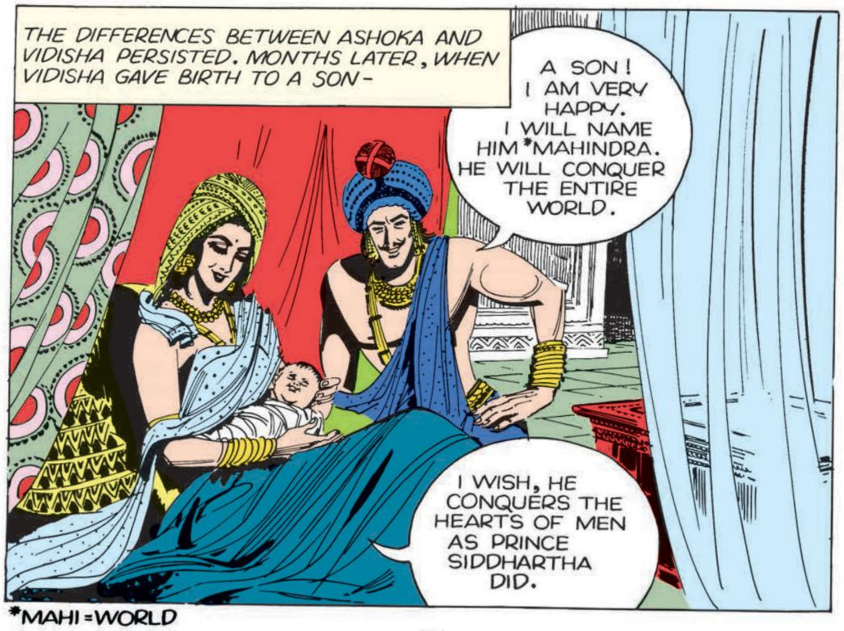

AFTER A QUICK WEDDING, HE PROCEEDED TOWARDS UJJAINI ALONG WITH VIDISHA.
ASHOKA, A GREAT WARRIOR, IN NO TIME ROUTED THE REBELS.
THE REBELS LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS.


THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY GAVE ASHOKA A GRAND WELCOME.

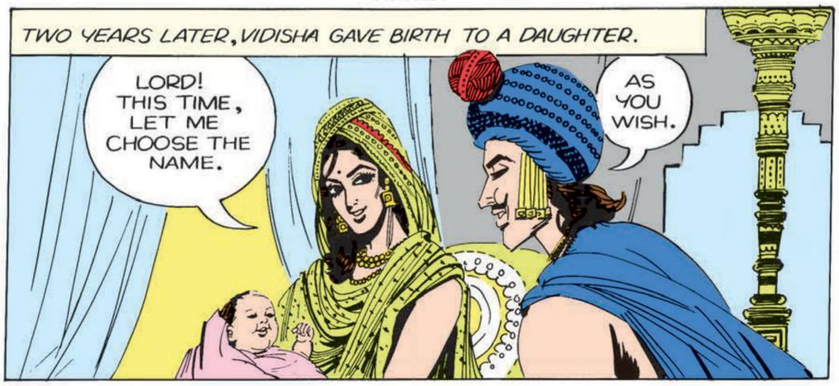

IN THE PALACE GARDENS LATER-
THIS IS AN OCCASION FOR REJOICING, VIDISHA. BUT YOU LOOK SAD.
I DISLIKE KILLING... EVEN IN BATTLES... ESPECIALLY BY YOU.

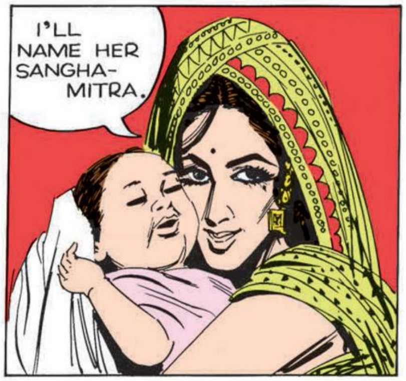

THAT'S SILLY. YOU SAY IT, BECAUSE YOU ARE A BUDDHIST, I AM NOT.

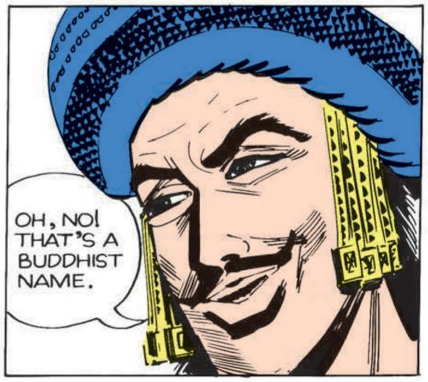

I AM A KSHATRIYA KING. MY DUTY ENJOINS KILLING IF NEED BE.
WHAT ABOUT BIMBISARA? HE TOO WAS A KING. HE FOUND PEACE IN THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA.

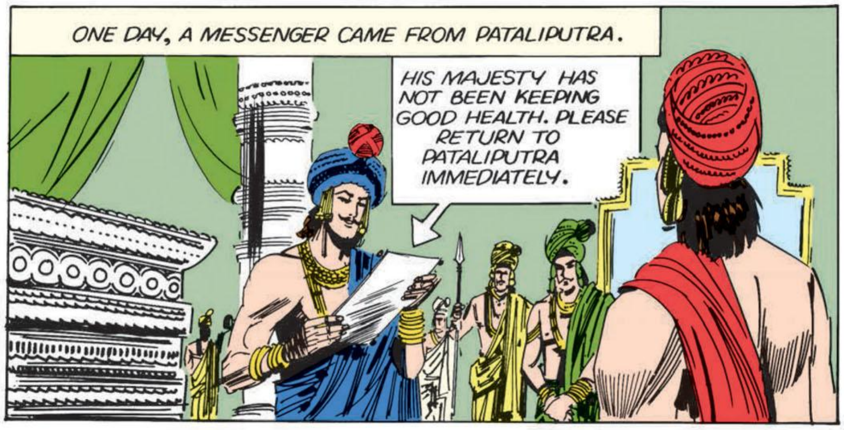

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ASHOKA AND VIDISHA PERSISTED. MONTHS LATER, WHEN VIDISHA GAVE BIRTH TO A SON-
A SON! I AM VERY HAPPY. I WILL NAME HIM *MAHINDRA. HE WILL CONQUER THE ENTIRE WORLD.
I WISH, HE CONQUERS THE HEARTS OF MEN AS PRINCE SIDDHARTHA DID.

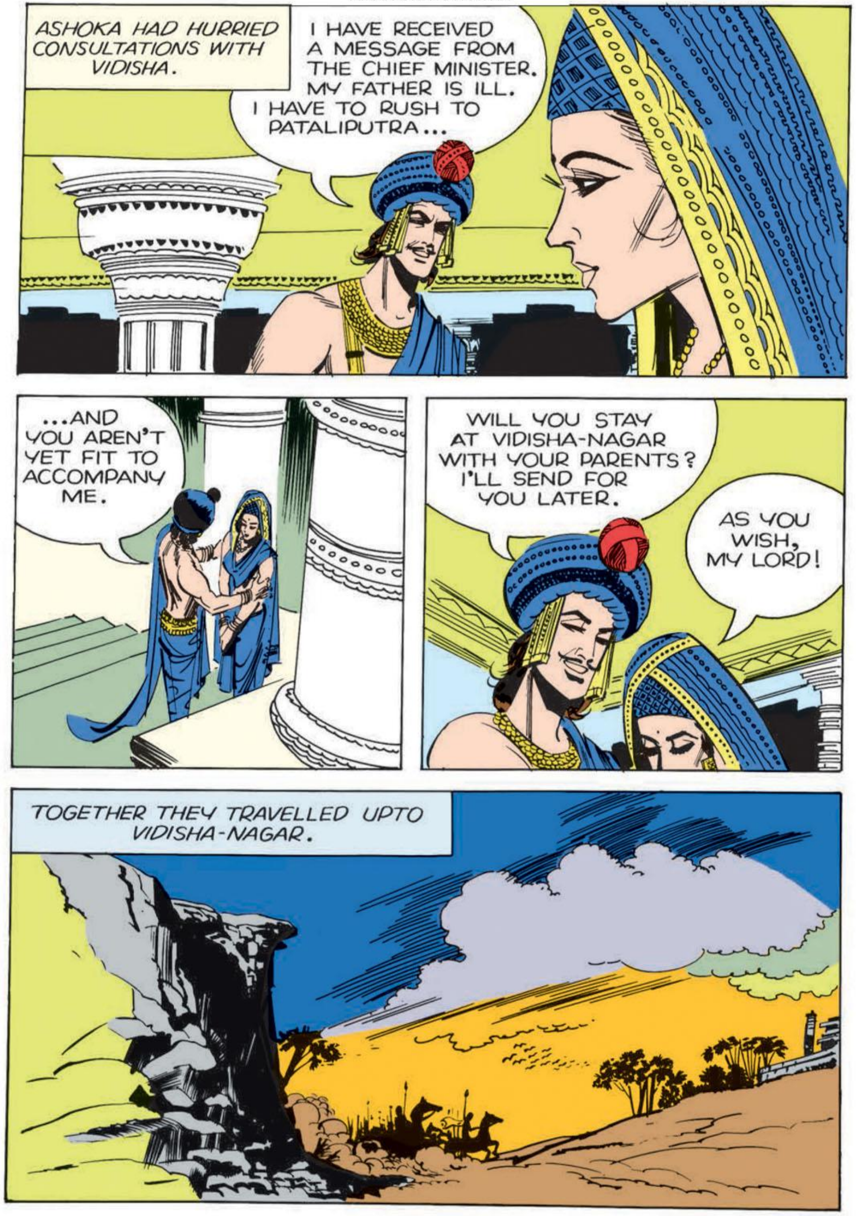
*MAHI=WORLD

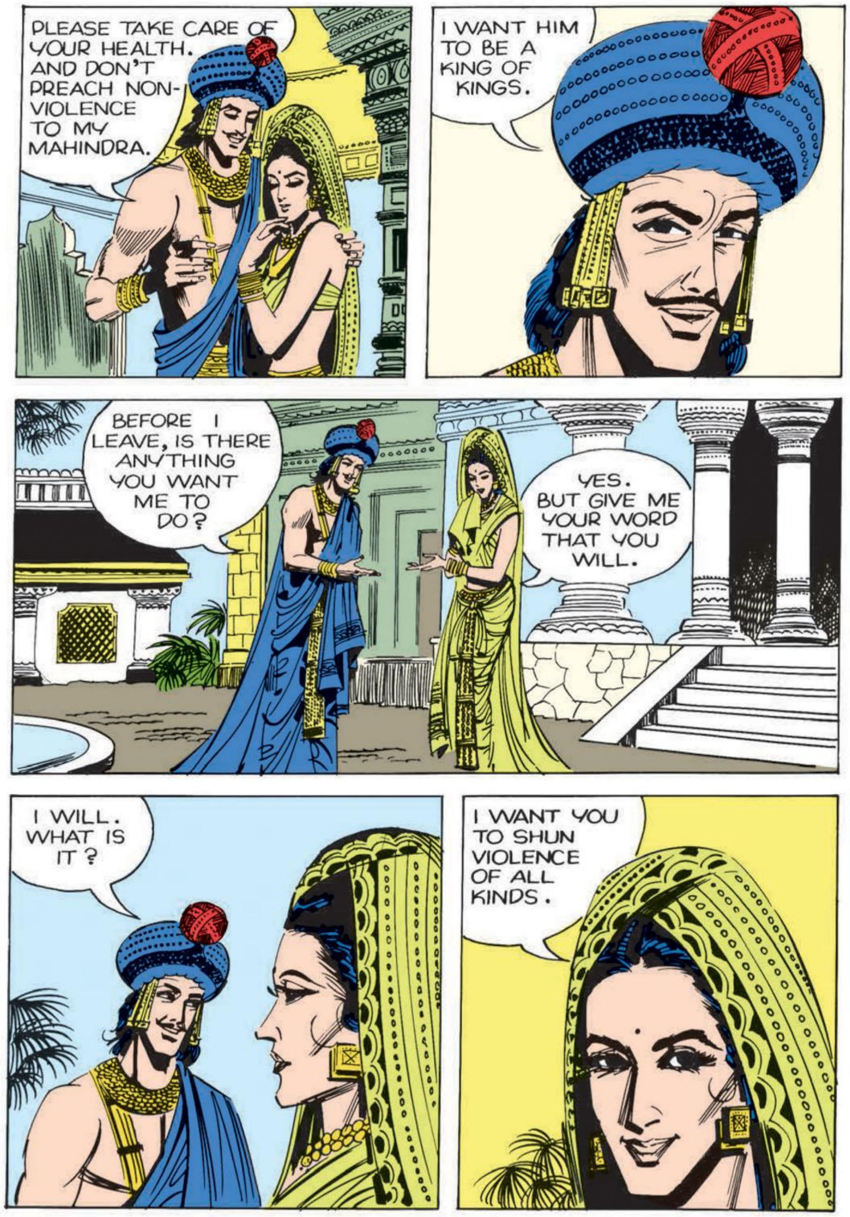

TWO YEARS LATER, VIDISHA GAVE BIRTH TO A DAUGHTER.
LORD! THIS TIME, LET ME CHOOSE THE NAME.
AS YOU WISH.

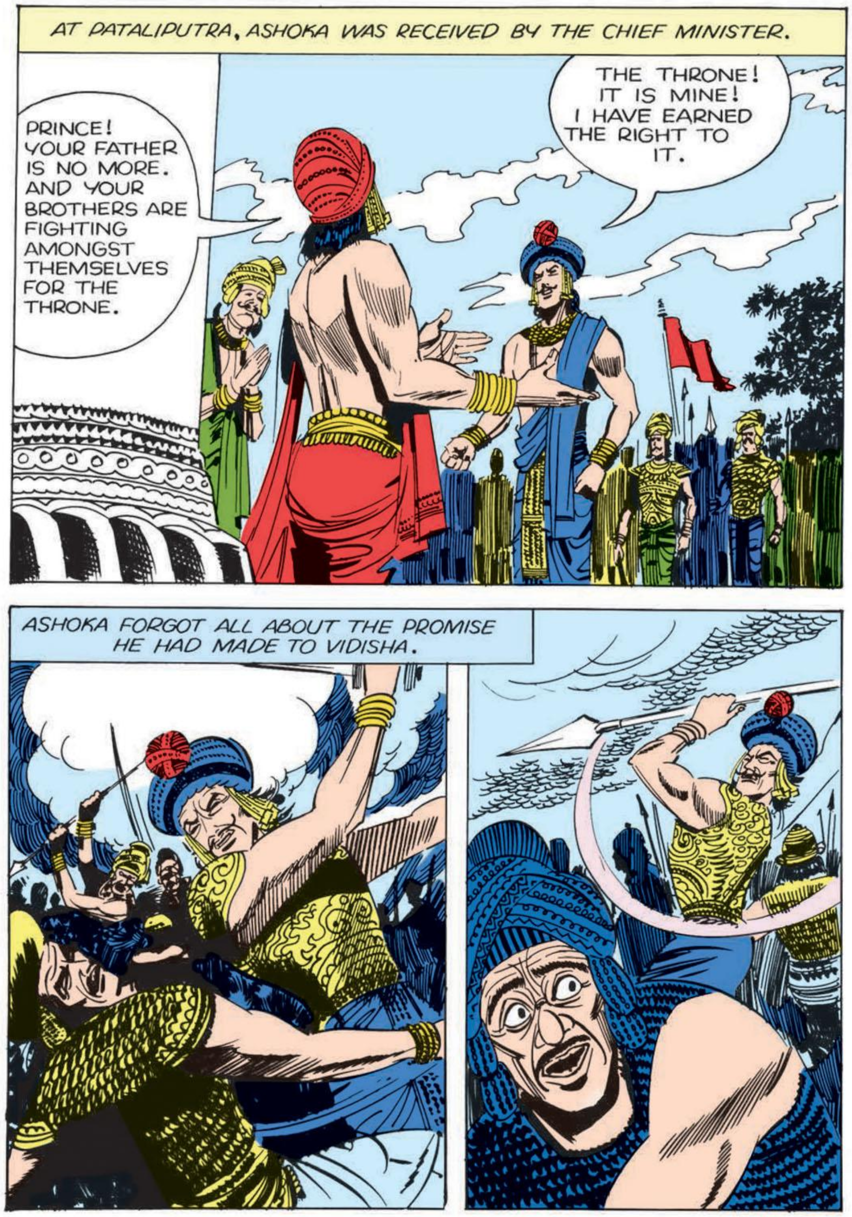

I'LL NAME HER SANGHAMITRA.

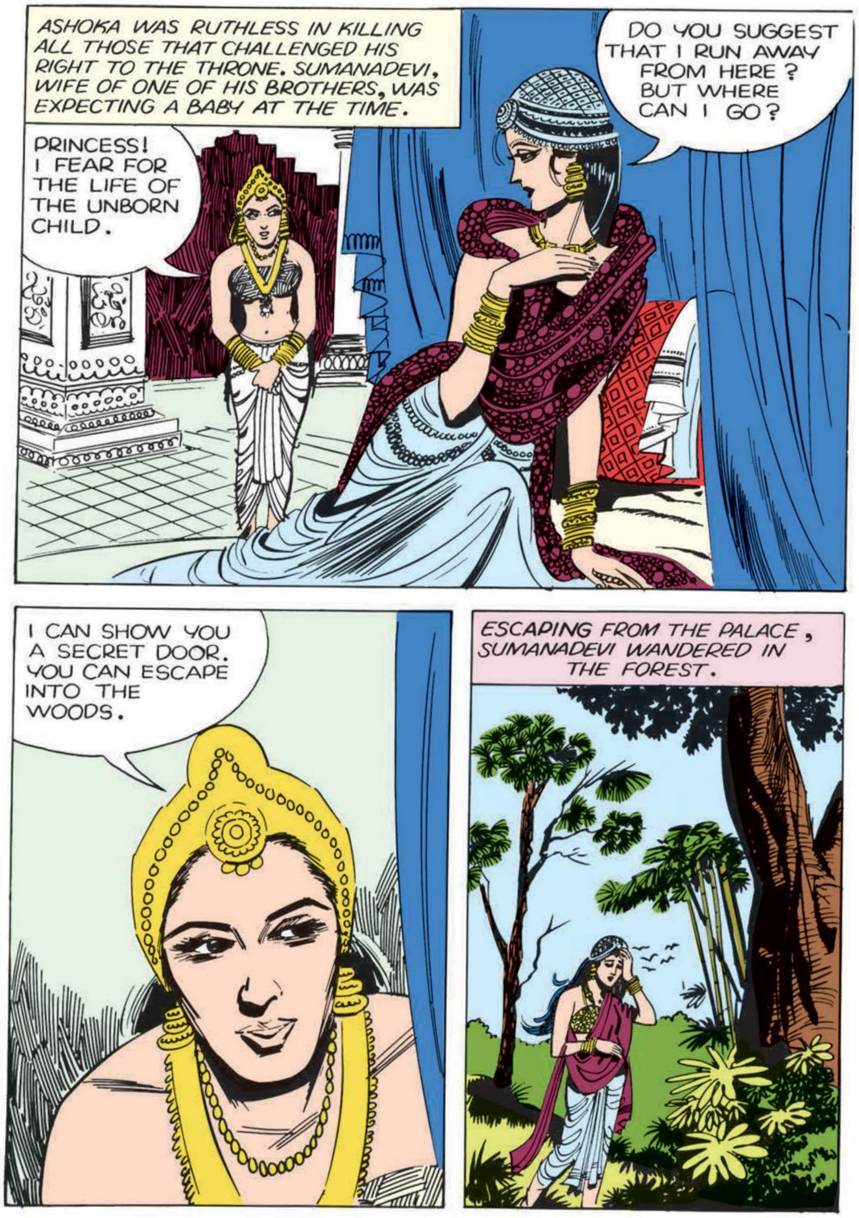

OH, NO! THAT'S A BUDDHIST NAME.

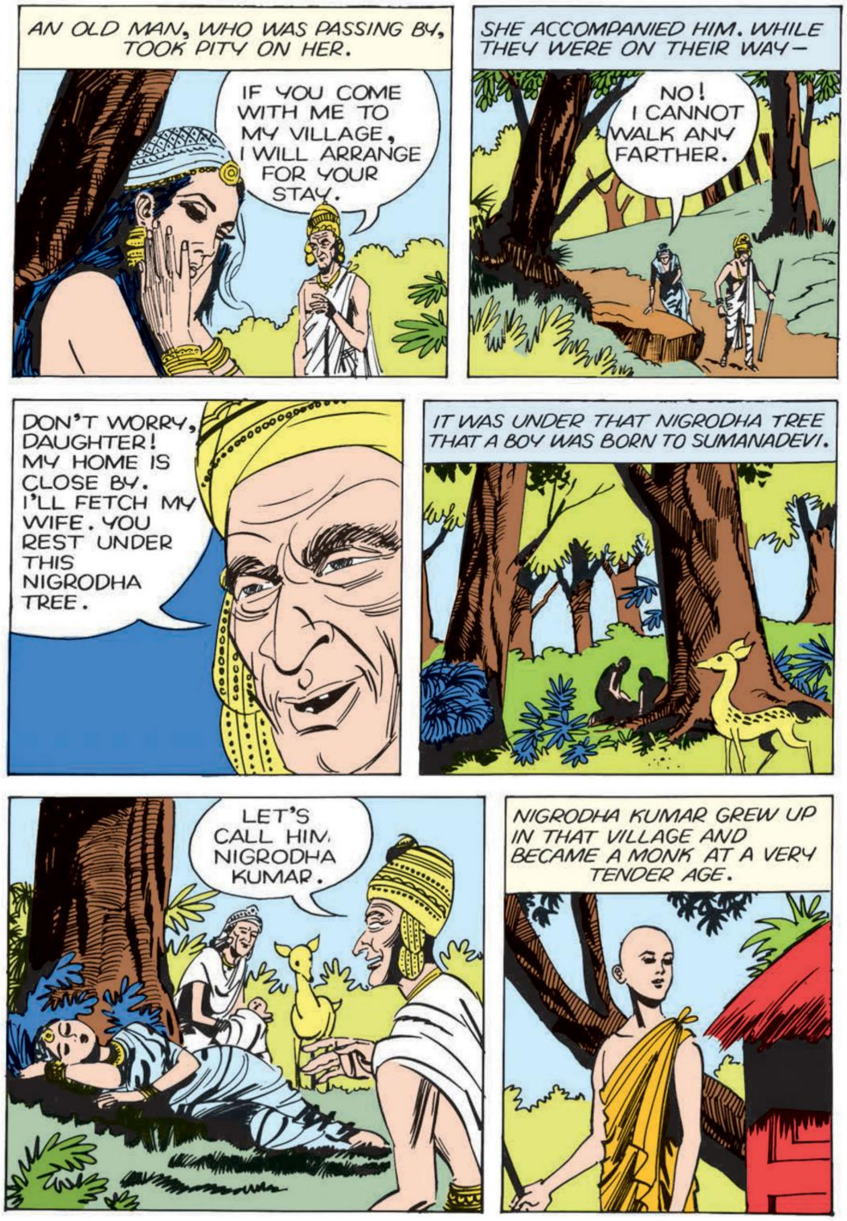

ONE DAY, A MESSENGER CAME FROM PATALIPUTRA.
HIS MAJESTY HAS NOT BEEN KEEPING GOOD HEALTH. PLEASE RETURN TO PATALIPUTRA IMMEDIATELY.

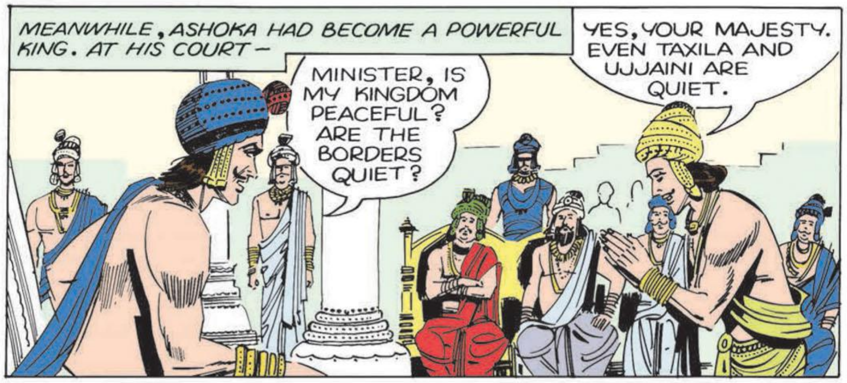

ASHOKA HAD HURRIED CONSULTATIONS WITH VIDISHA.
I HAVE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER. MY FATHER IS ILL. I HAVE TO RUSH TO PATALIPUTRA...
...AND YOU AREN'T YET FIT TO ACCOMPANY ME.
WILL YOU STAY AT VIDISHA-NAGAR WITH YOUR PARENTS? I'LL SEND FOR YOU LATER.
AS YOU WISH, MY LORD!
TOGETHER THEY TRAVELLED UPTO VIDISHA-NAGAR.

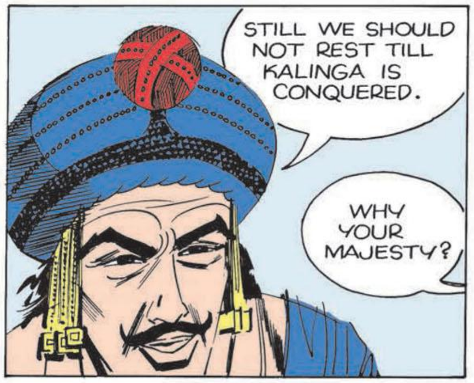

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH. AND DON'T PREACH NON-VIOLENCE TO MY MAHINDRA.
I WANT HIM TO BE A KING OF KINGS.
BEFORE I LEAVE, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO DO?
YES. BUT GIVE ME YOUR WORD THAT YOU WILL.
I WILL. WHAT IS IT?
I WANT YOU TO SHUN VIOLENCE OF ALL KINDS.

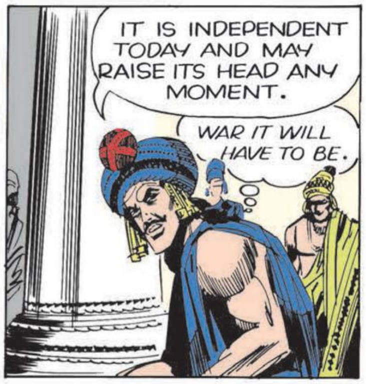

AT PATALIPUTRA, ASHOKA WAS RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF MINISTER.
PRINCE! YOUR FATHER IS NO MORE. AND YOUR BROTHERS ARE FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES FOR THE THRONE.
THE THRONE! IT IS MINE! I HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO IT.
ASHOKA FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE PROMISE HE HAD MADE TO VIDISHA.

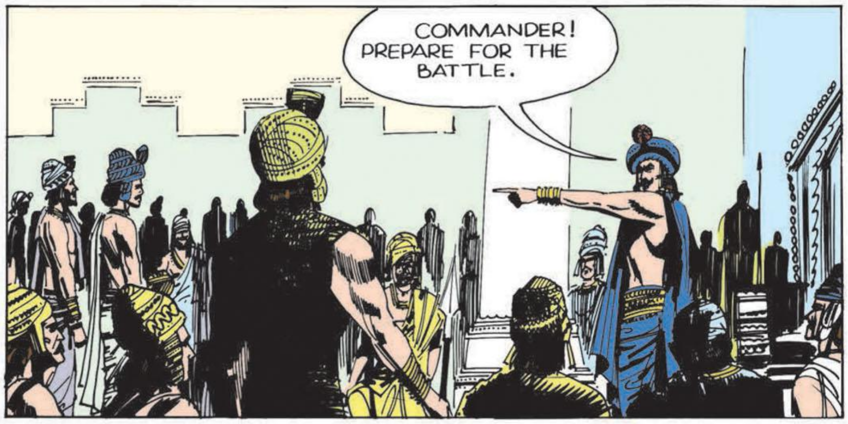

ASHOKA WAS RUTHLESS IN KILLING ALL THOSE THAT CHALLENGED HIS RIGHT TO THE THRONE. SUMANADEVI, WIFE OF ONE OF HIS BROTHERS, WAS EXPECTING A BABY AT THE TIME.
DO YOU SUGGEST THAT I RUN AWAY FROM HERE ? BUT WHERE CAN I GO ?
PRINCESS! I FEAR FOR THE LIFE OF THE UNBORN CHILD.
I CAN SHOW YOU A SECRET DOOR. YOU CAN ESCAPE INTO THE WOODS.
ESCAPING FROM THE PALACE, SUMANADEVI WANDERED IN THE FOREST.

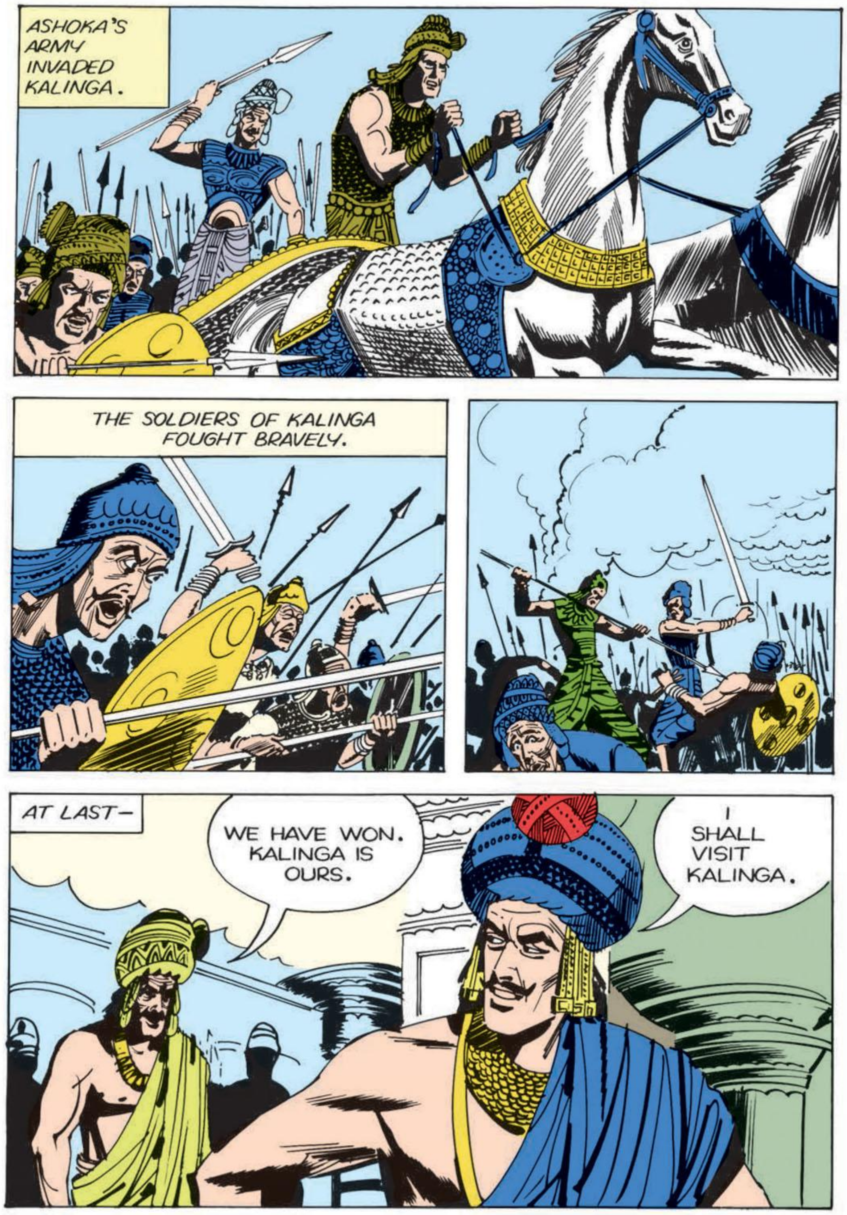

AN OLD MAN, WHO WAS PASSING BY, TOOK PITY ON HER.
IF YOU COME WITH ME TO MY VILLAGE, I WILL ARRANGE FOR YOUR STAY.
SHE ACCOMPANIED HIM. WHILE THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY—
NO! I CANNOT WALK ANY FARTHER.
DON'T WORRY, DAUGHTER! MY HOME IS CLOSE BY. I'LL FETCH MY WIFE. YOU REST UNDER THIS NIGRODHA TREE.
IT WAS UNDER THAT NIGRODHA TREE THAT A BOY WAS BORN TO SUMANADEVI.
LET'S CALL HIM NIGRODHA KUMAR.
NIGRODHA KUMAR GREW UP IN THAT VILLAGE AND BECAME A MONK AT A VERY TENDER AGE.

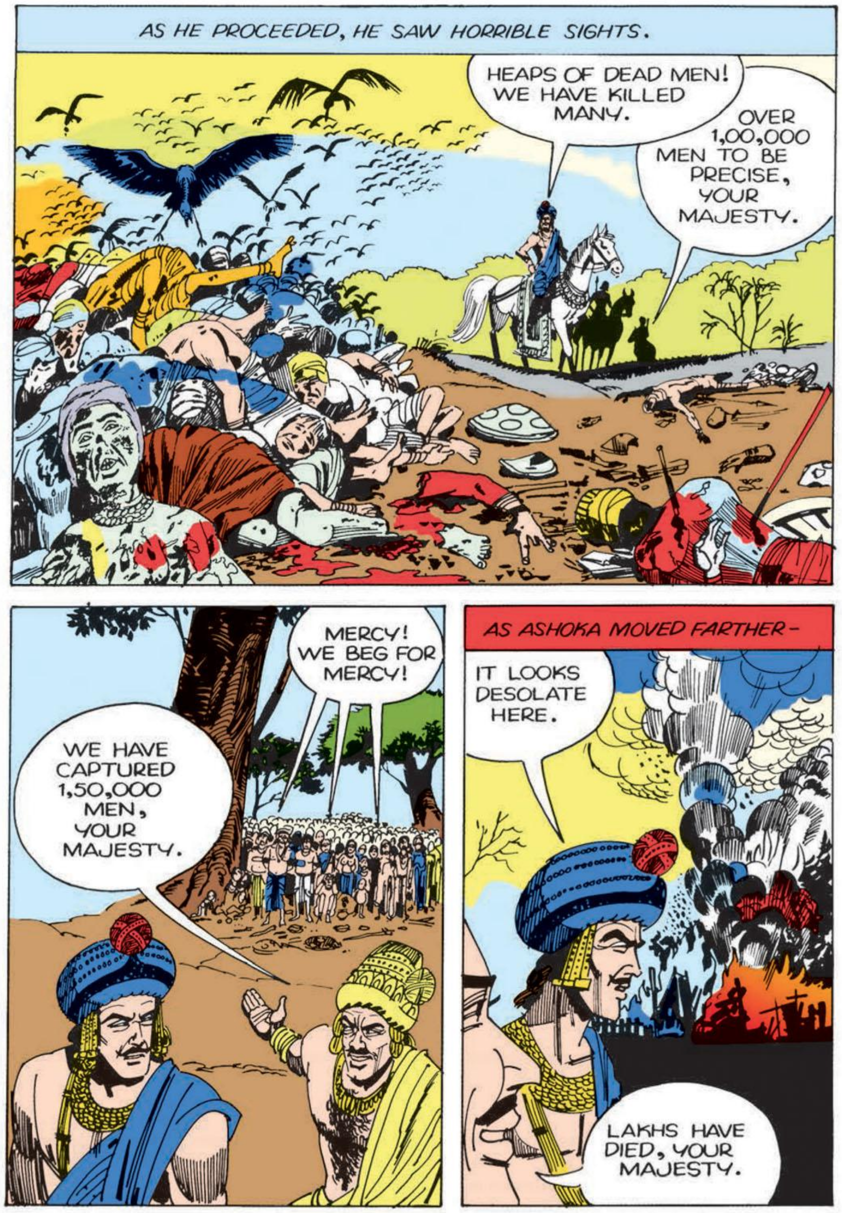

MEANWHILE, ASHOKA HAD BECOME A POWERFUL KING. AT HIS COURT—
MINISTER, IS MY KINGDOM PEACEFUL? ARE THE BORDERS QUIET?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY. EVEN TAXILA AND UJJAINI ARE QUIET.

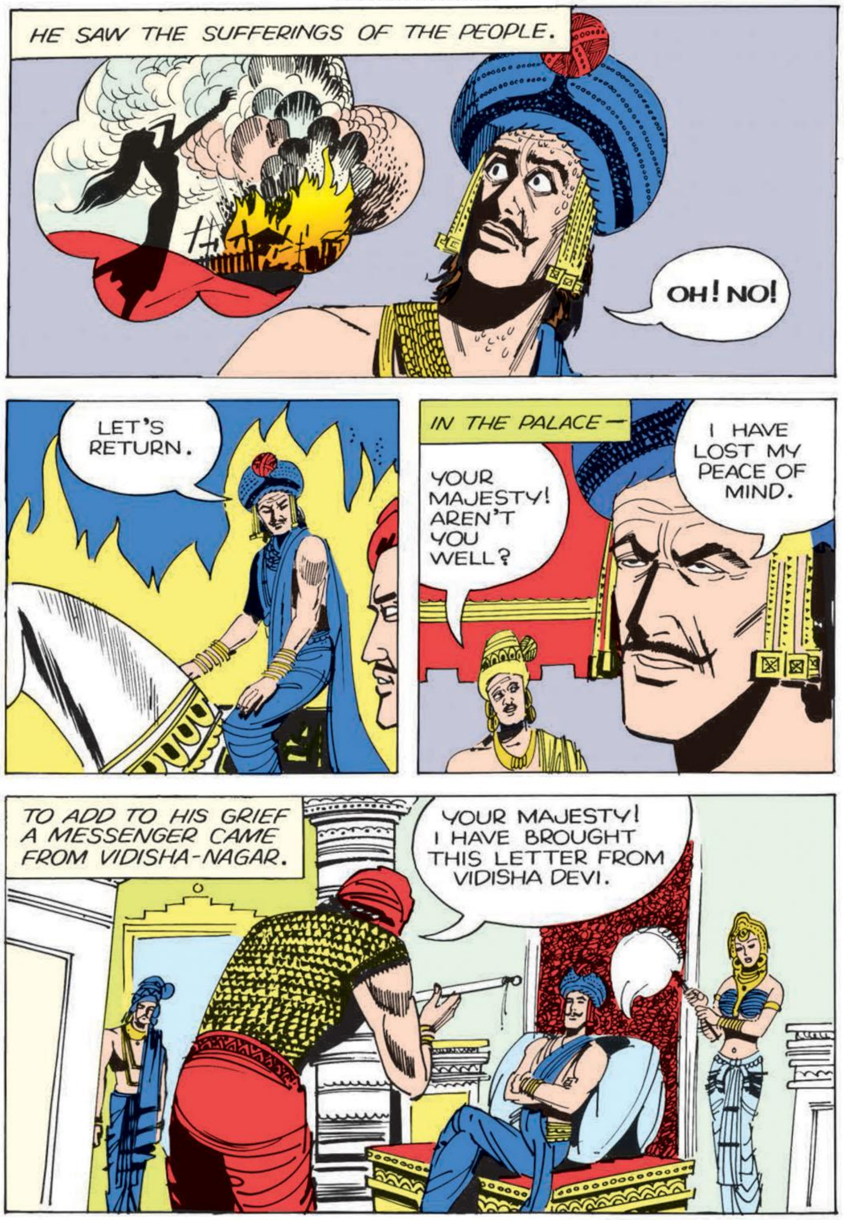

STILL WE SHOULD NOT REST TILL KALINGA IS CONQUERED.
WHY YOUR MAJESTY?

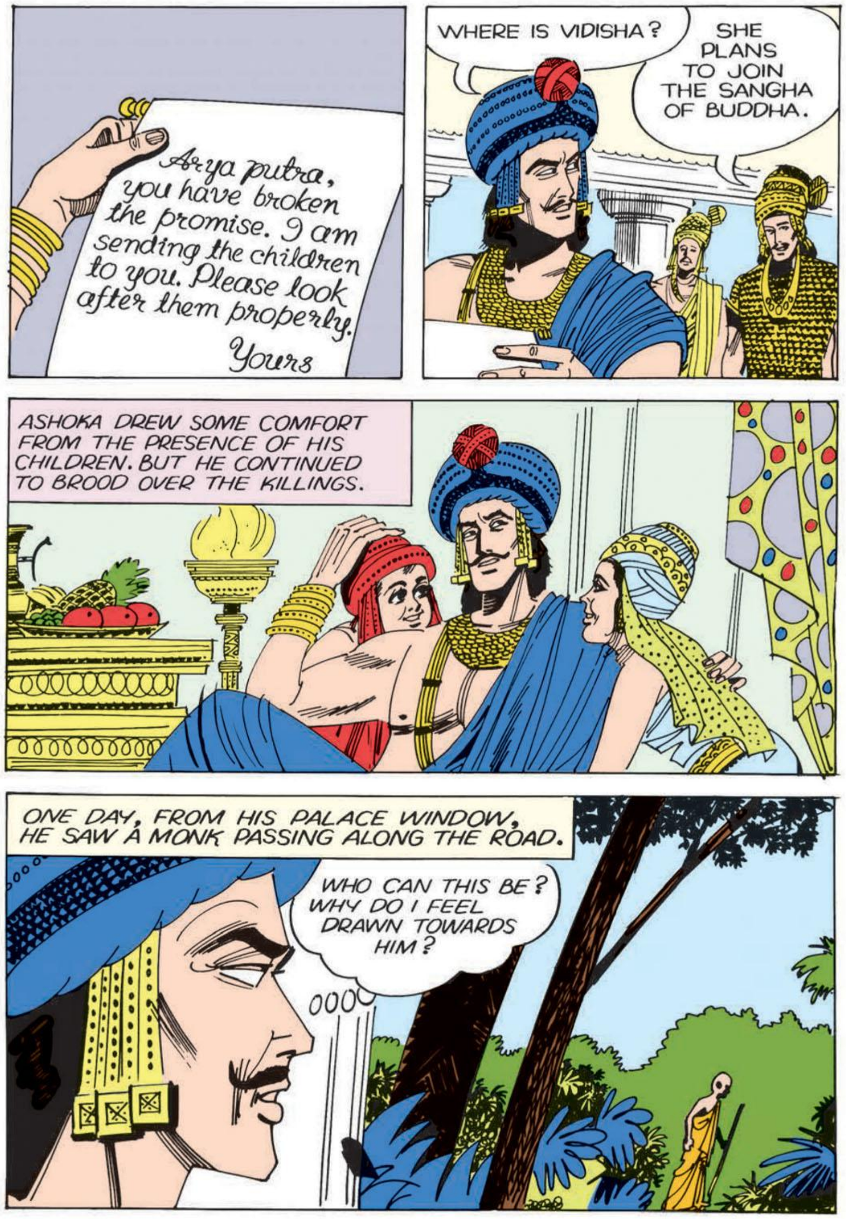

IT IS INDEPENDENT TODAY AND MAY RAISE ITS HEAD ANY MOMENT.
WAR IT WILL HAVE TO BE.

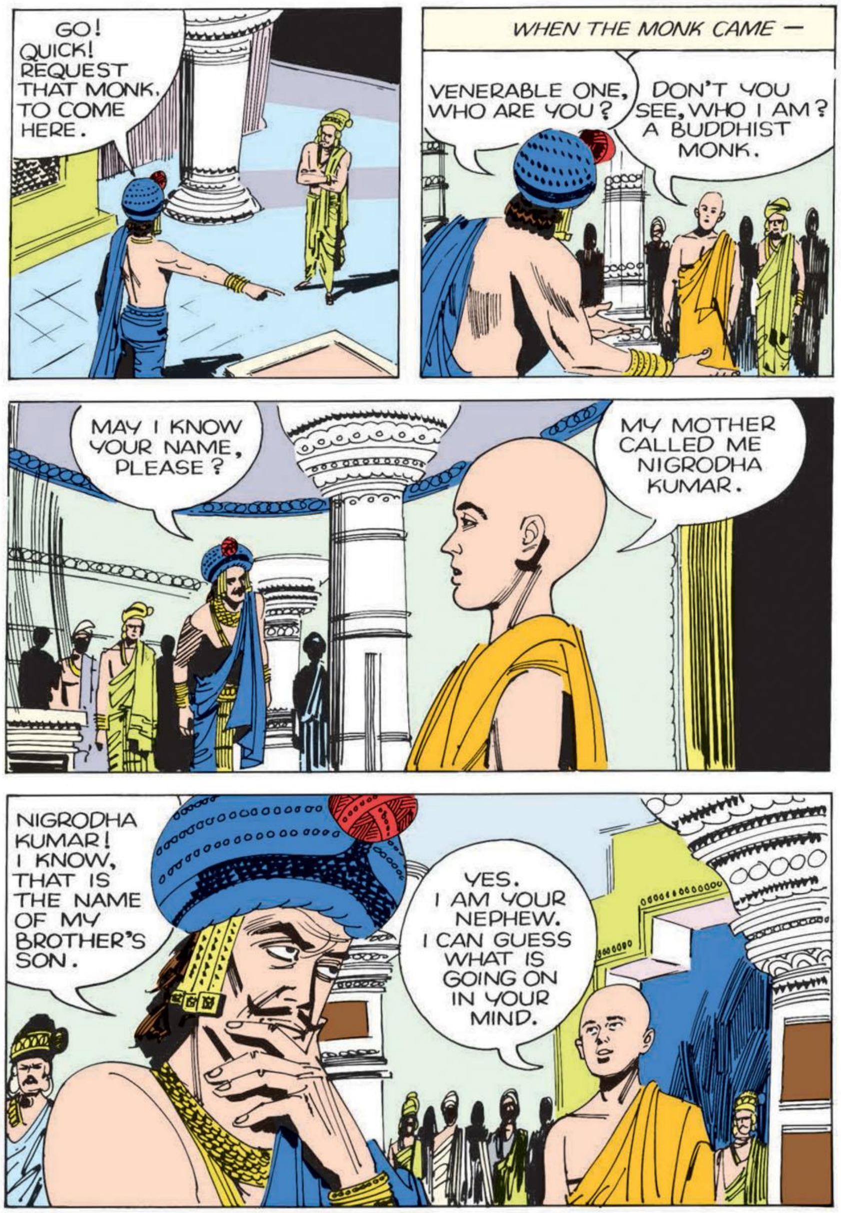

COMMANDER! PREPARE FOR THE BATTLE.

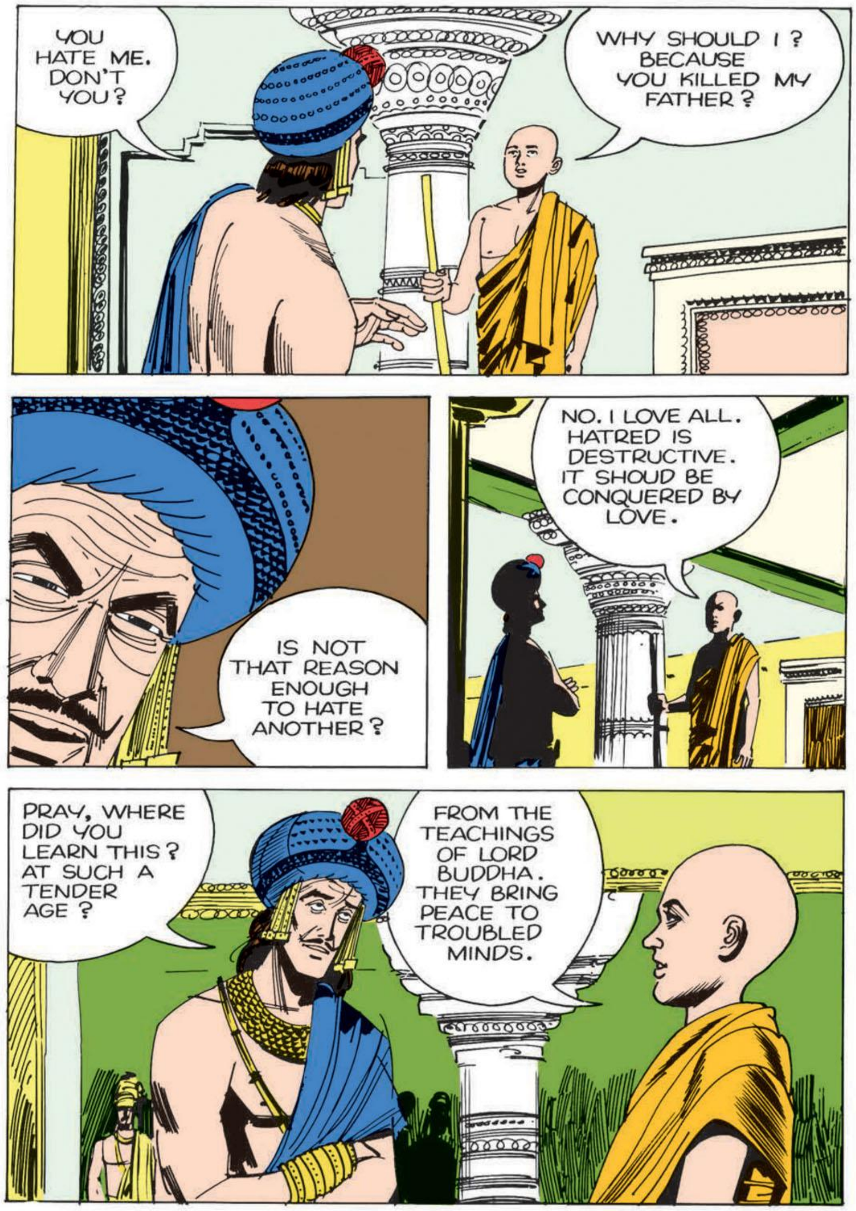

ASHOKA'S ARMY INVADED KALINGA.
THE SOLDIERS OF KALINGA FOUGHT BRAVELY.
AT LAST–
WE HAVE WON. KALINGA IS OURS.
I SHALL VISIT KALINGA.

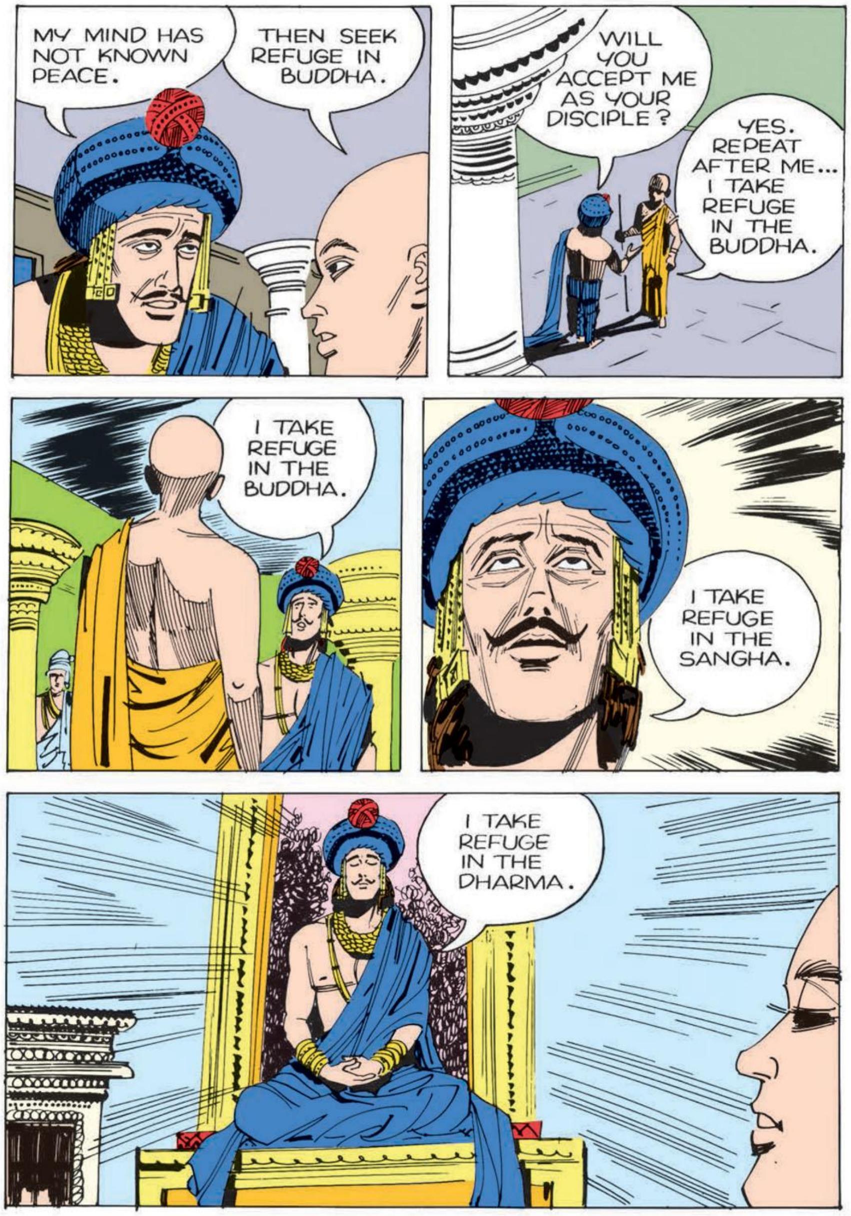

AS HE PROCEEDED, HE SAW HORRIBLE SIGHTS.
HEAPS OF DEAD MEN! WE HAVE KILLED MANY.
OVER 1,00,000 MEN TO BE PRECISE, YOUR MAJESTY.
MERCY! WE BEG FOR MERCY!
WE HAVE CAPTURED 1,50,000 MEN, YOUR MAJESTY.
AS ASHOKA MOVED FARTHER –
IT LOOKS DESOLATE HERE.
LAKHS HAVE DIED, YOUR MAJESTY.

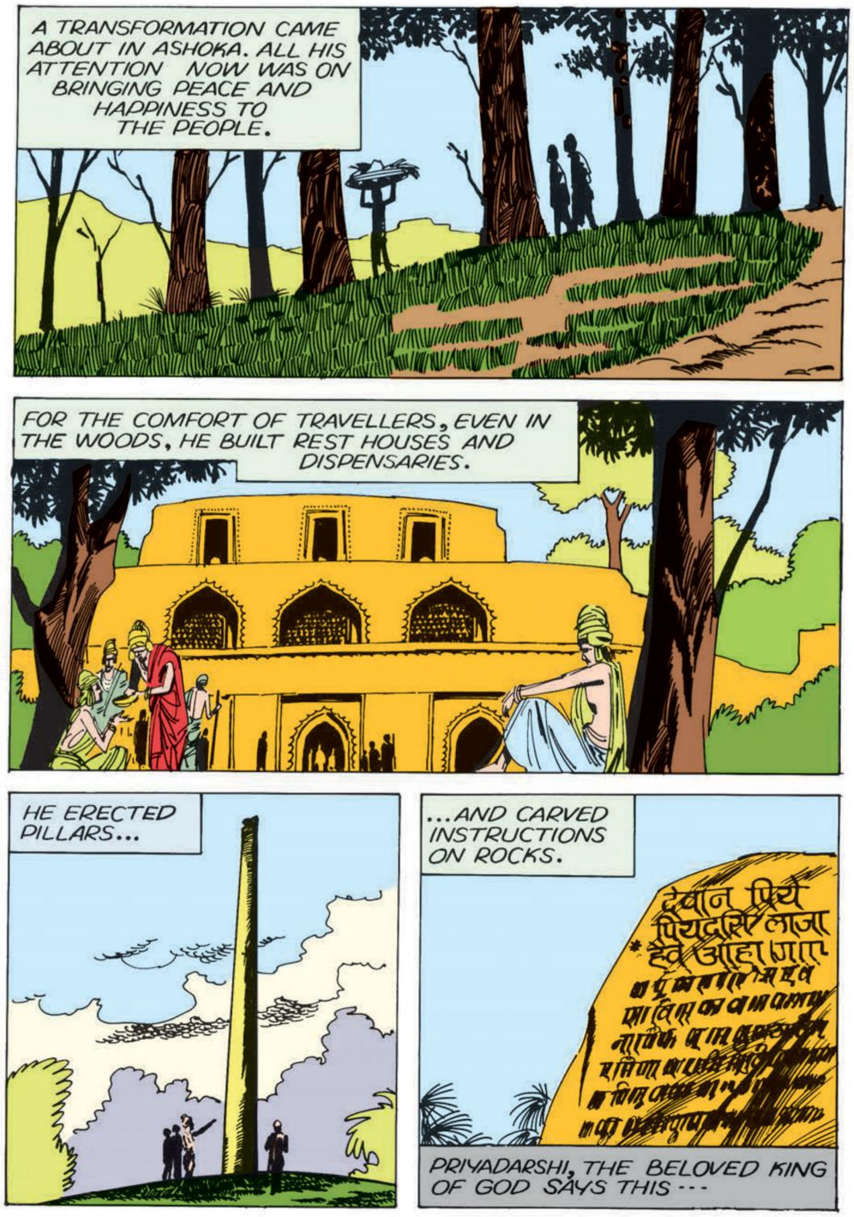

HE SAW THE SUFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE.
OH! NO!
LET'S RETURN.
IN THE PALACE —
YOUR MAJESTY! AREN'T YOU WELL?
I HAVE LOST MY PEACE OF MIND.
TO ADD TO HIS GRIEF A MESSENGER CAME FROM VIDISHA-NAGAR.
YOUR MAJESTY! I HAVE BROUGHT THIS LETTER FROM VIDISHA DEVI.

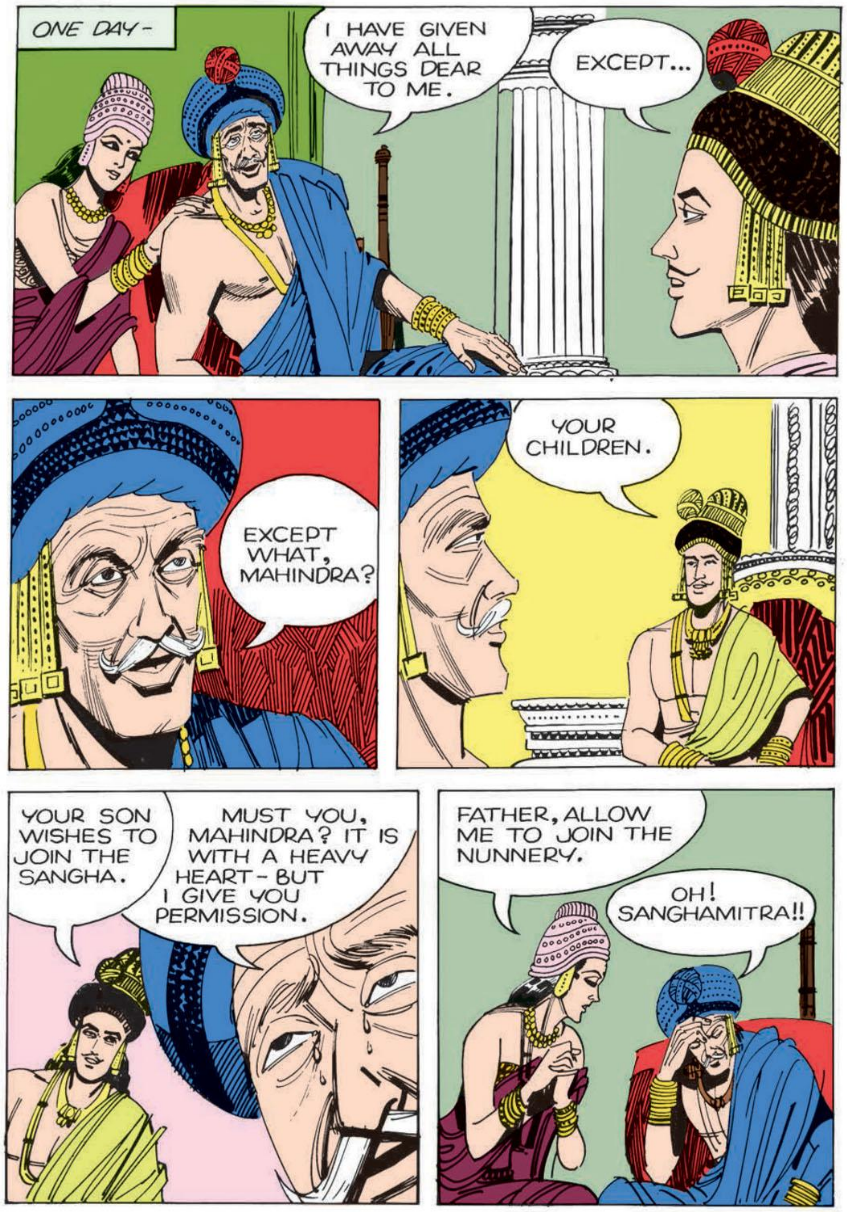

Arya putra,
you have broken
the promise. I am
sending the children
to you. Please look
after them properly.
Yours
WHERE IS VIDISHA?
SHE PLANS TO JOIN THE SANGHA OF BUDDHA.
ASHOKA DREW SOME COMFORT FROM THE PRESENCE OF HIS CHILDREN. BUT HE CONTINUED TO BROOD OVER THE KILLINGS.
ONE DAY, FROM HIS PALACE WINDOW, HE SAW A MONK PASSING ALONG THE ROAD.
WHO CAN THIS BE? WHY DO I FEEL DRAWN TOWARDS HIM?

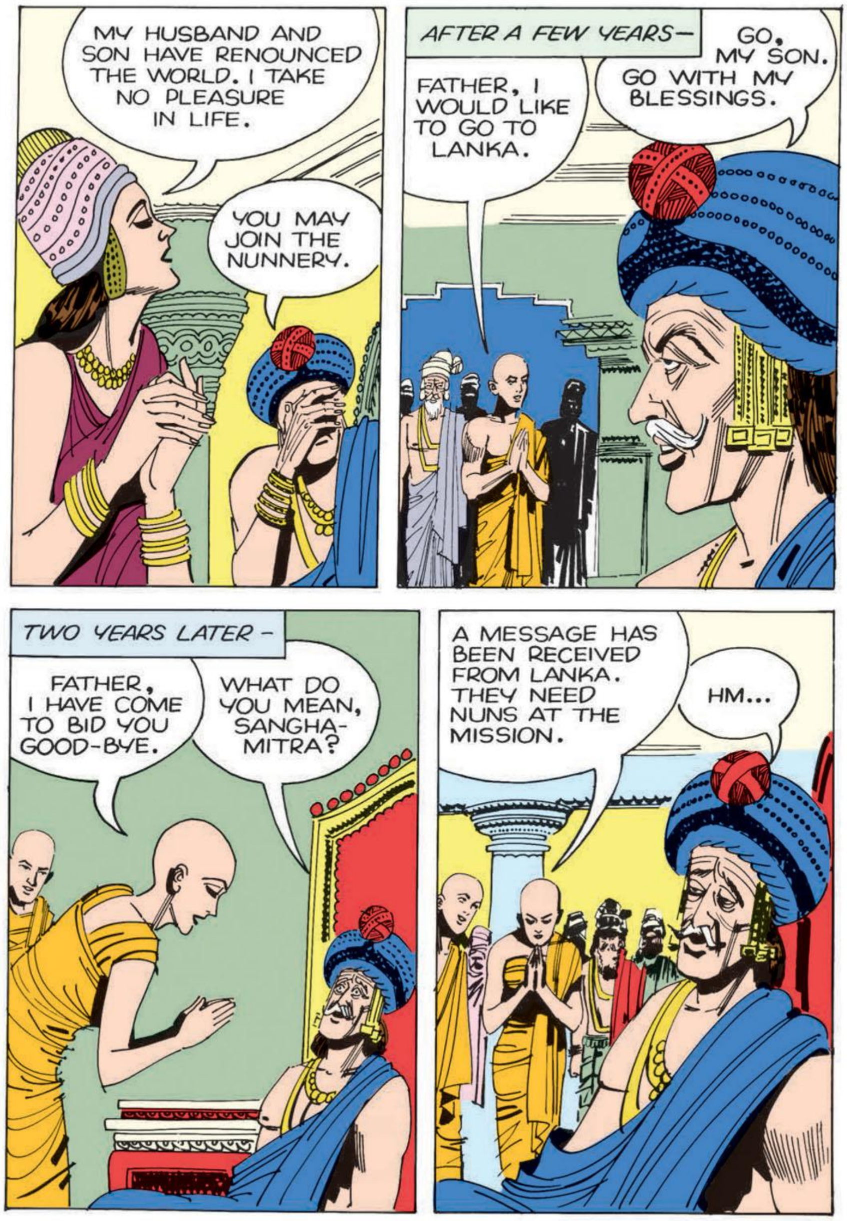

GO! QUICK! REQUEST THAT MONK, TO COME HERE.
WHEN THE MONK CAME —
VENERABLE ONE, WHO ARE YOU?
DON'T YOU SEE, WHO I AM? A BUDDHIST MONK.
MAY I KNOW YOUR NAME, PLEASE?
MY MOTHER CALLED ME NIGRODHA KUMAR.
NIGRODHA KUMAR! I KNOW, THAT IS THE NAME OF MY BROTHER'S SON.
YES. I AM YOUR NEPHEW. I CAN GUESS WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR MIND.

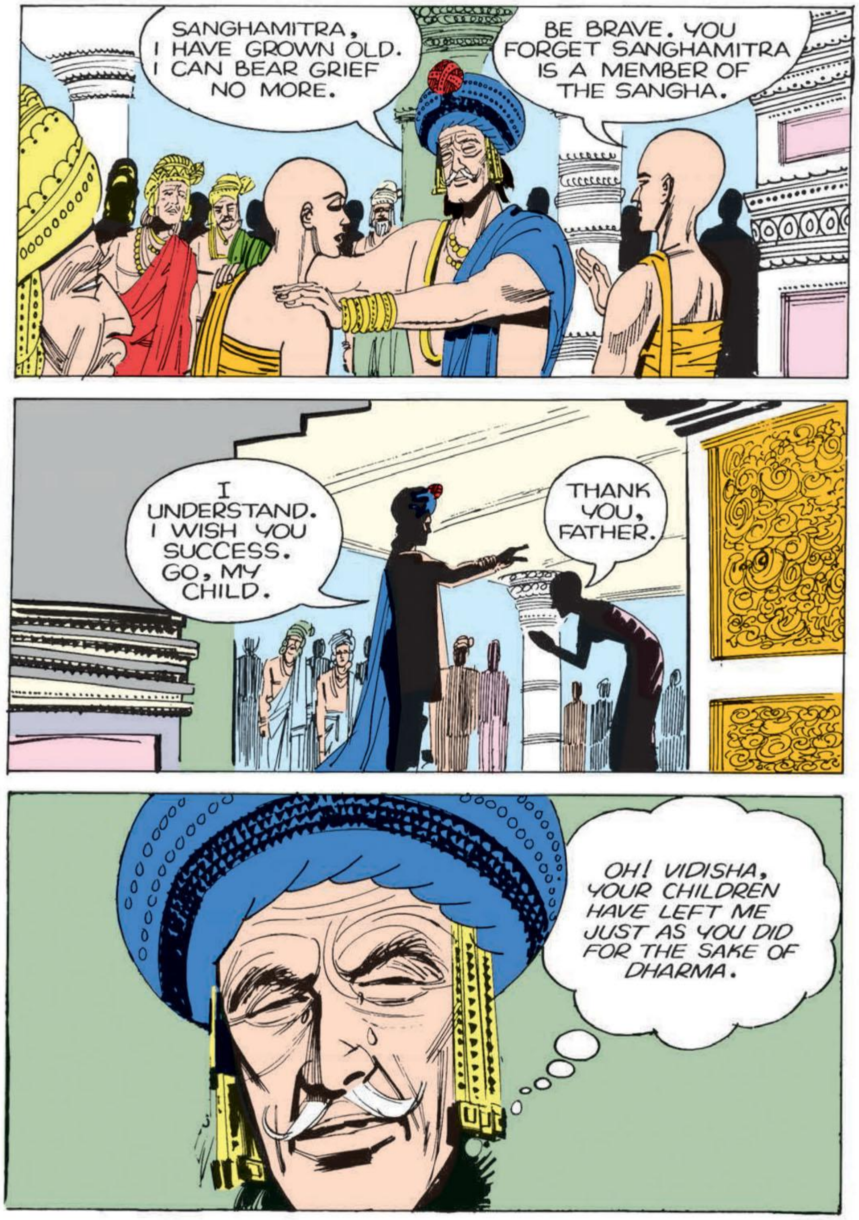

YOU HATE ME. DON'T YOU?
WHY SHOULD I ? BECAUSE YOU KILLED MY FATHER ?
IS NOT THAT REASON ENOUGH TO HATE ANOTHER ?
NO. I LOVE ALL. HATRED IS DESTRUCTIVE. IT SHOUD BE CONQUERED BY LOVE.
PRAY, WHERE DID YOU LEARN THIS ? AT SUCH A TENDER AGE ?
FROM THE TEACHINGS OF LORD BUDDHA. THEY BRING PEACE TO TROUBLED MINDS.

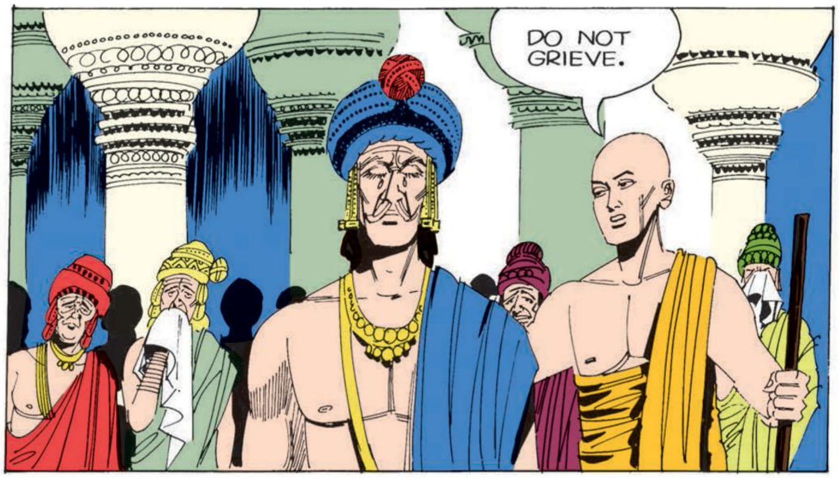

MY MIND HAS NOT KNOWN PEACE.
THEN SEEK REFUGE IN BUDDHA.
WILL YOU ACCEPT ME AS YOUR DISCIPLE?
YES. REPEAT AFTER ME... I TAKE REFUGE IN THE BUDDHA.
I TAKE REFUGE IN THE BUDDHA.
I TAKE REFUGE IN THE SANGHA.
I TAKE REFUGE IN THE DHARMA.

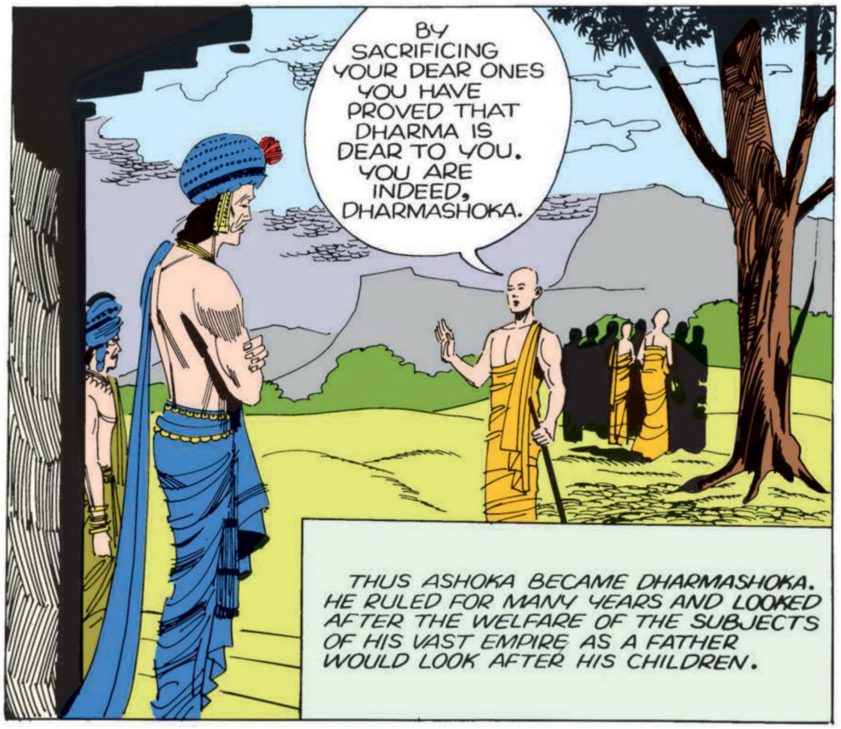

A TRANSFORMATION CAME ABOUT IN ASHOKA. ALL HIS ATTENTION NOW WAS ON BRINGING PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO THE PEOPLE.
FOR THE COMFORT OF TRAVELLERS, EVEN IN THE WOODS, HE BUILT REST HOUSES AND DISPENSARIES.
HE ERECTED PILLARS...
...AND CARVED INSTRUCTIONS ON ROCKS.
देवान प्रियें
पियदसि लाजा
* हेवं आहा ता
PRIYADARSHI, THE BELOVED KING OF GOD SAYS THIS ---

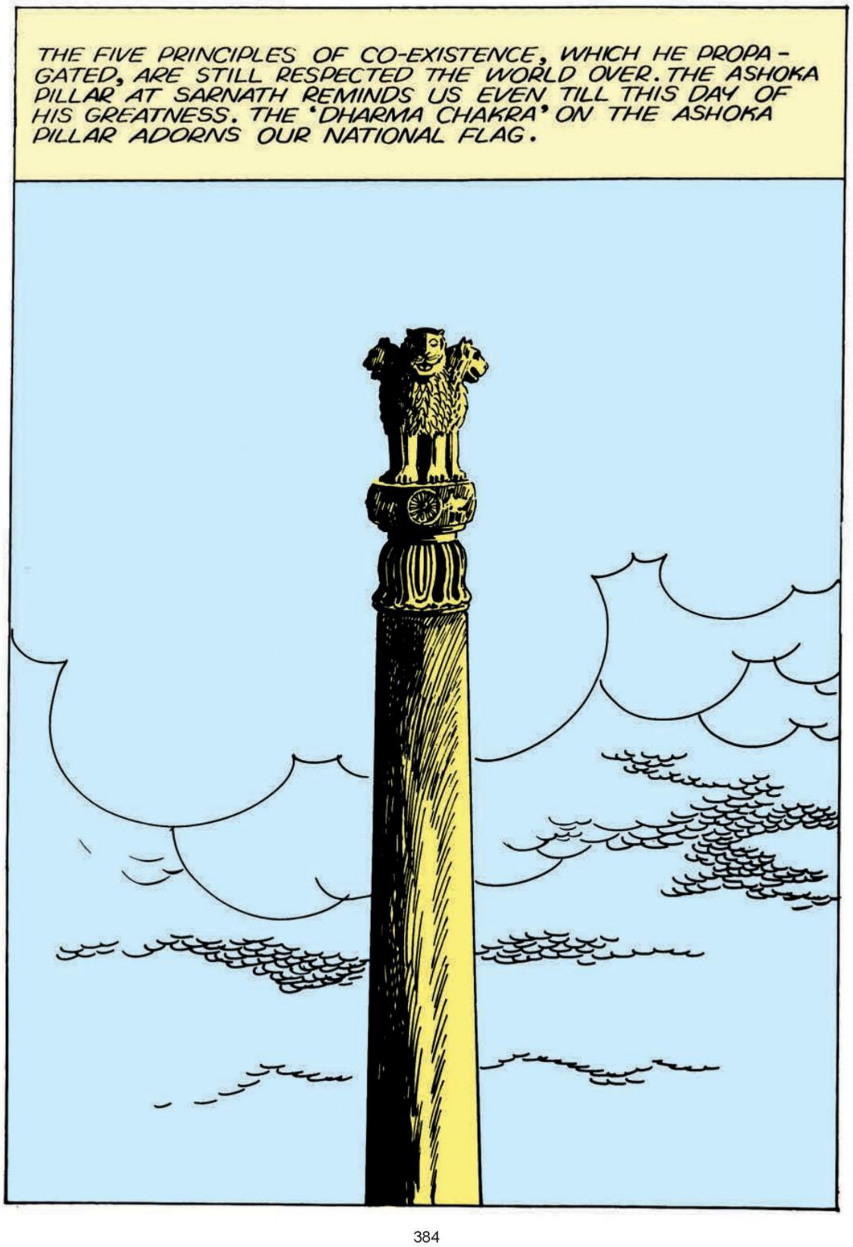

ONE DAY -
I HAVE GIVEN AWAY ALL THINGS DEAR TO ME.
EXCEPT...
EXCEPT WHAT, MAHINDRA?
YOUR CHILDREN.
YOUR SON WISHES TO JOIN THE SANGHA.
MUST YOU, MAHINDRA? IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART - BUT I GIVE YOU PERMISSION.
FATHER, ALLOW ME TO JOIN THE NUNNERY.
OH! SANGHAMITRA!!


MY HUSBAND AND SON HAVE RENOUNCED THE WORLD. I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN LIFE.
YOU MAY JOIN THE NUNNERY.
AFTER A FEW YEARS—
FATHER, I WOULD LIKE TO GO TO LANKA.
GO, MY SON. GO WITH MY BLESSINGS.
TWO YEARS LATER—
FATHER, I HAVE COME TO BID YOU GOOD-BYE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SANGHAMITRA?
A MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM LANKA. THEY NEED NUNS AT THE MISSION.
HM...

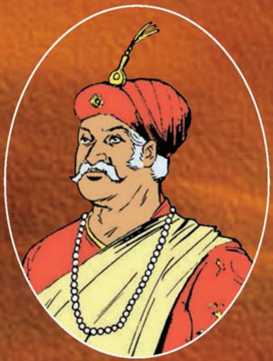

SANGHAMITRA, I HAVE GROWN OLD. I CAN BEAR GRIEF NO MORE.
BE BRAVE. YOU FORGET SANGHAMITRA IS A MEMBER OF THE SANGHA.
I UNDERSTAND. I WISH YOU SUCCESS. GO, MY CHILD.
THANK YOU, FATHER.
OH! VIDISHA, YOUR CHILDREN HAVE LEFT ME JUST AS YOU DID FOR THE SAKE OF DHARMA.


DO NOT GRIEVE.


BY SACRIFICING YOUR DEAR ONES YOU HAVE PROVED THAT DHARMA IS DEAR TO YOU. YOU ARE INDEED, DHARMASHOKA.
THUS ASHOKA BECAME DHARMASHOKA. HE RULED FOR MANY YEARS AND LOOKED AFTER THE WELFARE OF THE SUBJECTS OF HIS VAST EMPIRE AS A FATHER WOULD LOOK AFTER HIS CHILDREN.


THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF CO-EXISTENCE, WHICH HE PROPAGATED, ARE STILL RESPECTED THE WORLD OVER. THE ASHOKA PILLAR AT SARNATH REMINDS US EVEN TILL THIS DAY OF HIS GREATNESS. THE 'DHARMA CHAKRA' ON THE ASHOKA PILLAR ADORNS OUR NATIONAL FLAG.

# Administrators

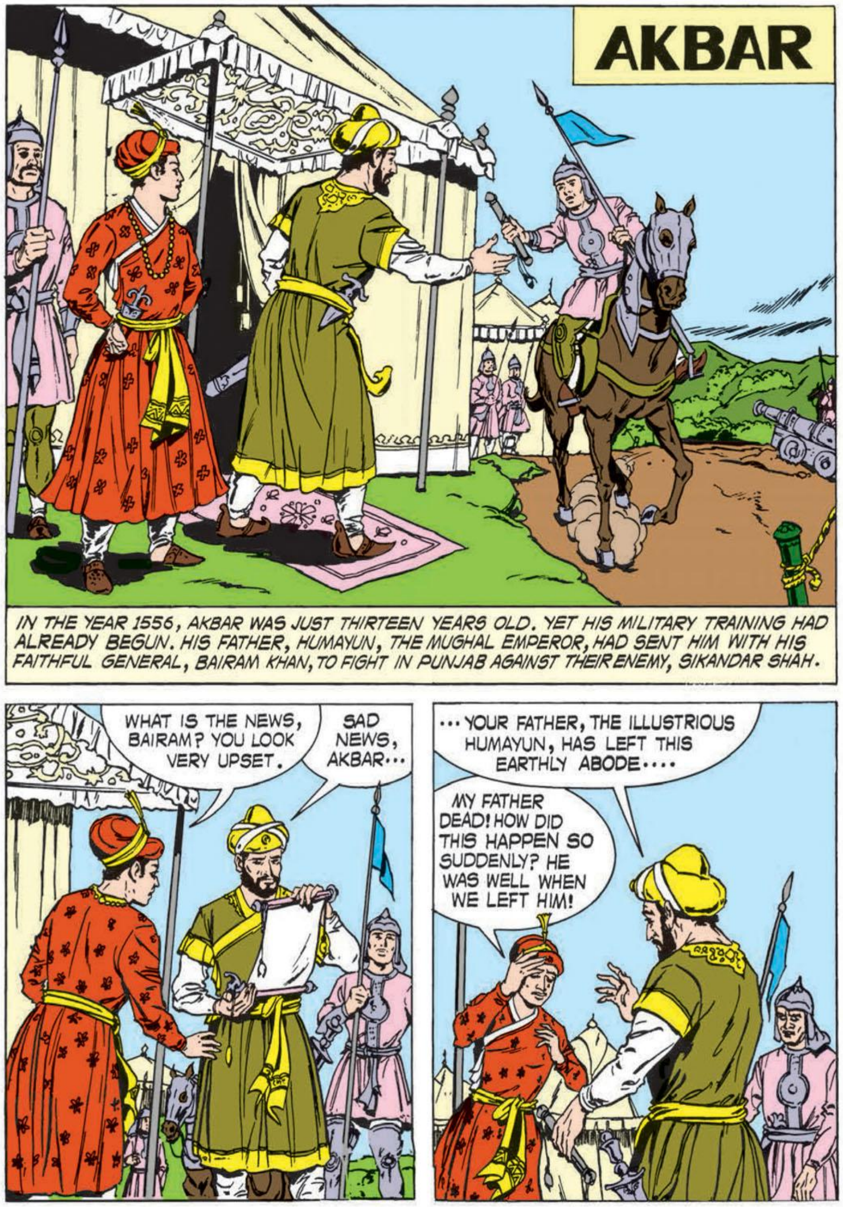


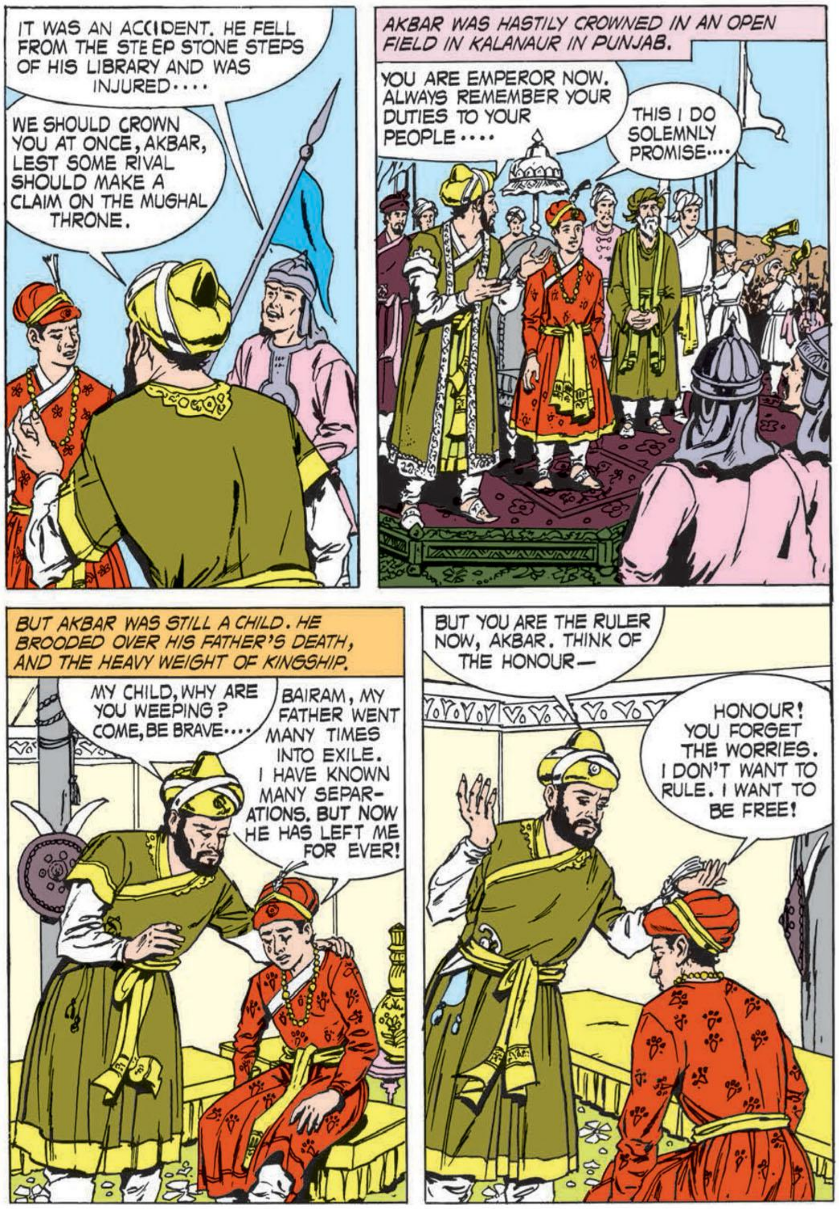
Akbar is said to have wandered through his kingdom dressed as a commoner, to find out if his subjects were truly happy or not.

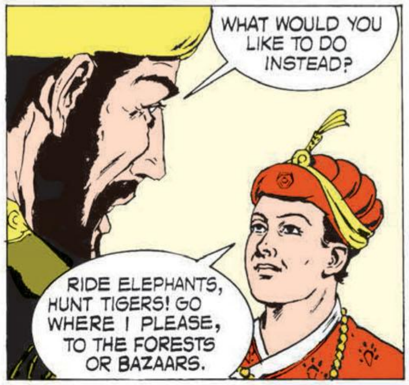
Ahilyabai Holkar is remembered for being a generous and supportive queen – she built roads, forts, wells and rest-houses. Her devotion to her subjects' welfare was such that she even ordered her own son punished, for crimes against the people.

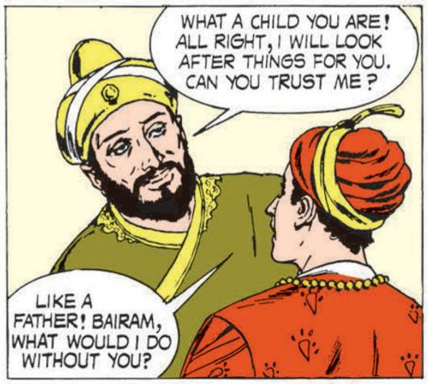
The emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire, Krishnadeva Raya was regarded as the most powerful Hindu rulers of his time. He was believed to be gifted administrator and an exceptional general and his rule marked a period of military success in the empire's history.

Winning a kingdom takes one kind of expertise but administering it is an entirely different skill. These rulers combined justice, mercy and an open mind to reconcile the many different kinds of people in their kingdoms, making sure everyone was happy.

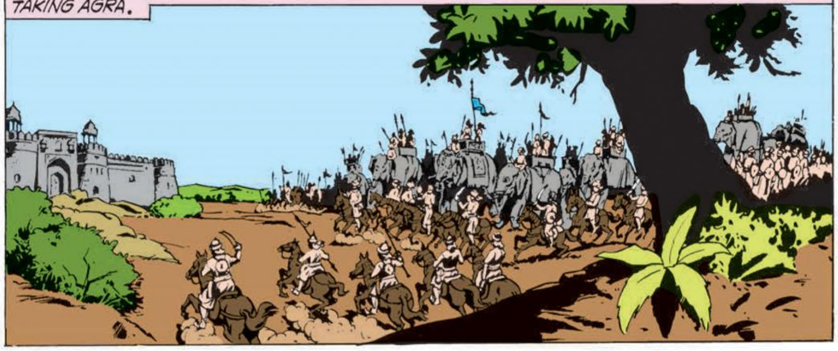

AKBAR
IN THE YEAR 1556, AKBAR WAS JUST THIRTEEN YEARS OLD. YET HIS MILITARY TRAINING HAD ALREADY BEGUN. HIS FATHER, HUMAYUN, THE MUGHAL EMPEROR, HAD SENT HIM WITH HIS FAITHFUL GENERAL, BAIRAM KHAN, TO FIGHT IN PUNJAB AGAINST THEIR ENEMY, SIKANDAR SHAH.
WHAT IS THE NEWS, BAIRAM? YOU LOOK VERY UPSET.
SAD NEWS, AKBAR...
...YOUR FATHER, THE ILLUSTRIOUS HUMAYUN, HAS LEFT THIS EARTHLY ABODE....
MY FATHER DEAD! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN SO SUDDENLY? HE WAS WELL WHEN WE LEFT HIM!


IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. HE FELL FROM THE STEEP STONE STEPS OF HIS LIBRARY AND WAS INJURED....
WE SHOULD CROWN YOU AT ONCE, AKBAR, LEST SOME RIVAL SHOULD MAKE A CLAIM ON THE MUGHAL THRONE.
AKBAR WAS HASTILY CROWNED IN AN OPEN FIELD IN KALANAUR IN PUNJAB.
YOU ARE EMPEROR NOW. ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR DUTIES TO YOUR PEOPLE....
THIS I DO SOLEMNLY PROMISE....
BUT AKBAR WAS STILL A CHILD. HE BROODED OVER HIS FATHER'S DEATH, AND THE HEAVY WEIGHT OF KINGSHIP.
MY CHILD, WHY ARE YOU WEEPING? COME, BE BRAVE....
BAIRAM, MY FATHER WENT MANY TIMES INTO EXILE. I HAVE KNOWN MANY SEPARATIONS. BUT NOW HE HAS LEFT ME FOR EVER!
BUT YOU ARE THE RULER NOW, AKBAR. THINK OF THE HONOUR—
HONOUR! YOU FORGET THE WORRIES. I DON'T WANT TO RULE. I WANT TO BE FREE!

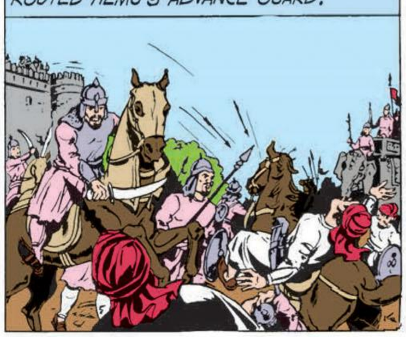

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO INSTEAD?
RIDE ELEPHANTS, HUNT TIGERS! GO WHERE I PLEASE, TO THE FORESTS OR BAZAARS.


WHAT A CHILD YOU ARE! ALL RIGHT, I WILL LOOK AFTER THINGS FOR YOU. CAN YOU TRUST ME?
LIKE A FATHER! BAIRAM, WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?

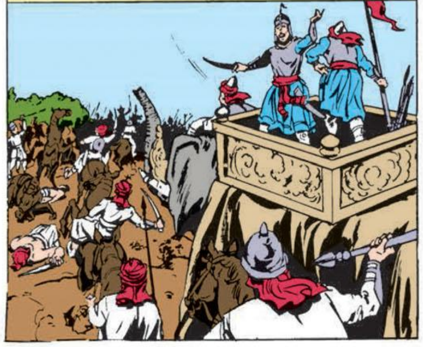
*WHILE BAIRAM, WITH AKBAR, WAS DIRECTING THE CAMPAIGN IN PUNJAB, AN ALARMING EVENT WAS TAKING PLACE AT THE CAPITAL. HEMU, THE HINDU GENERAL, HAD MARCHED TO DELHI, AFTER TAKING AGRA.*

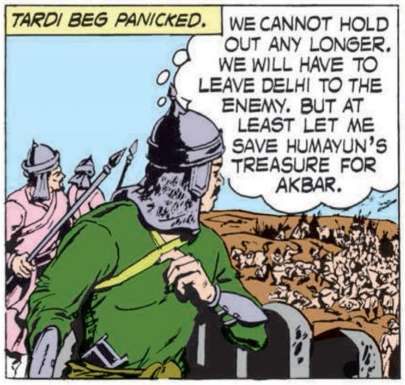


*TARDI BEG, THE MUGHAL GOVERNOR OF DELHI, PUT UP A VALIANT DEFENCE AND ROUTED HEMU'S ADVANCE GUARD.*



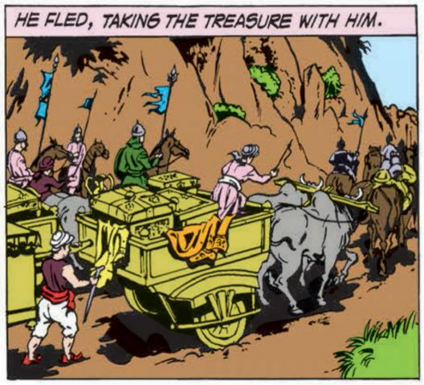
*BUT HEMU MADE A SUDDEN FIERCE ATTACK ON THE MUGHAL CENTRE.*



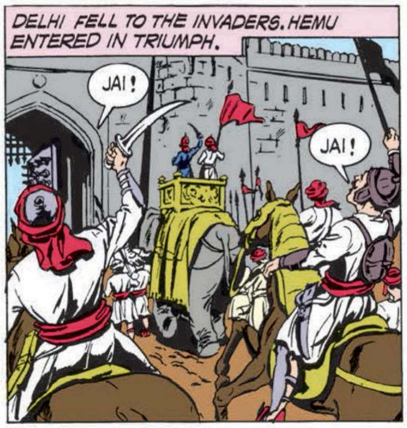


TARDI BEG PANICKED.

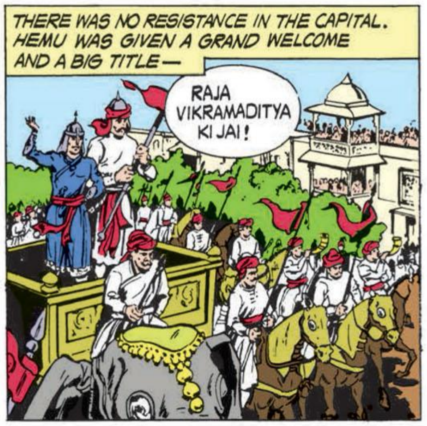
WE CANNOT HOLD OUT ANY LONGER. WE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE DELHI TO THE ENEMY. BUT AT LEAST LET ME SAVE HUMAYUN'S TREASURE FOR AKBAR.



HE FLED, TAKING THE TREASURE WITH HIM.

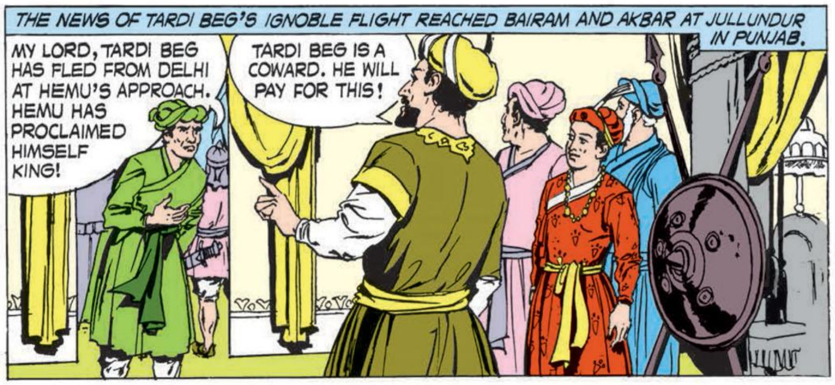


DELHI FELL TO THE INVADERS. HEMU ENTERED IN TRIUMPH.



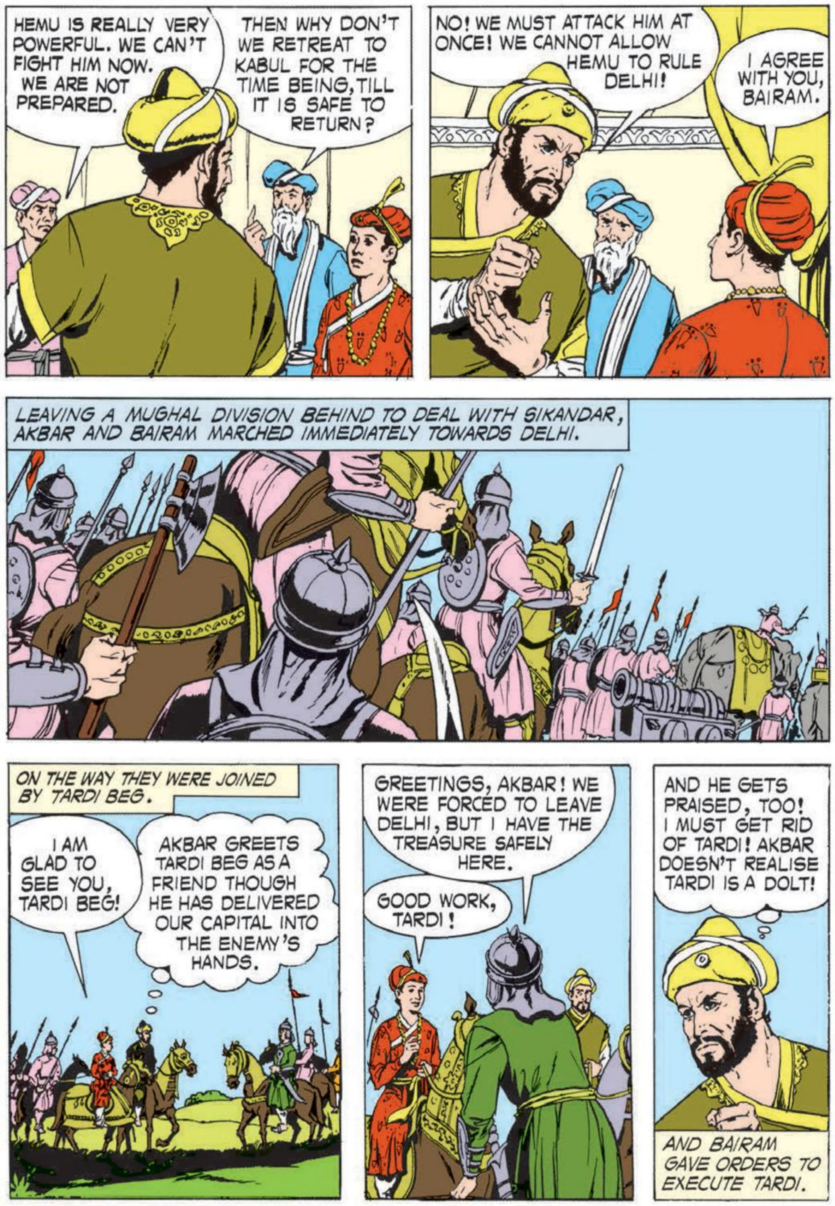
THERE WAS NO RESISTANCE IN THE CAPITAL. HEMU WAS GIVEN A GRAND WELCOME AND A BIG TITLE—

RAJA VIKRAMADITYA KI JAI!

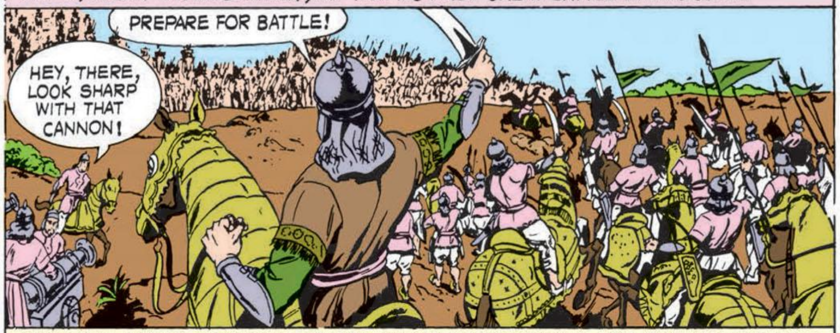


THE NEWS OF TARDI BEG'S IGNOBLE FLIGHT REACHED BAIRAM AND AKBAR AT JULLUNDUR IN PUNJAB.

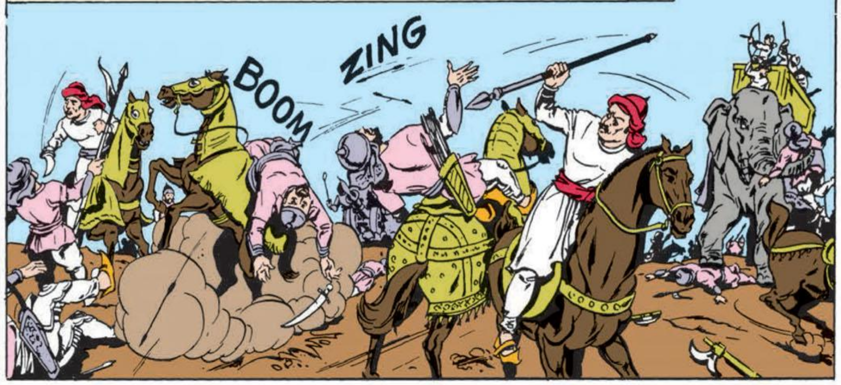
MY LORD, TARDI BEG HAS FLED FROM DELHI AT HEMU'S APPROACH. HEMU HAS PROCLAIMED HIMSELF KING!
TARDI BEG IS A COWARD. HE WILL PAY FOR THIS!
KLUMUT


HEMU IS REALLY VERY POWERFUL. WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM NOW. WE ARE NOT PREPARED.
THEN WHY DON'T WE RETREAT TO KABUL FOR THE TIME BEING, TILL IT IS SAFE TO RETURN?
NO! WE MUST ATTACK HIM AT ONCE! WE CANNOT ALLOW HEMU TO RULE DELHI!
I AGREE WITH YOU, BAIRAM.
LEAVING A MUGHAL DIVISION BEHIND TO DEAL WITH SIKANDAR, AKBAR AND BAIRAM MARCHED IMMEDIATELY TOWARDS DELHI.
ON THE WAY THEY WERE JOINED BY TARDI BEG.
I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU, TARDI BEG!
AKBAR GREETS TARDI BEG AS A FRIEND THOUGH HE HAS DELIVERED OUR CAPITAL INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS.
GREETINGS, AKBAR! WE WERE FORCED TO LEAVE DELHI, BUT I HAVE THE TREASURE SAFELY HERE.
GOOD WORK, TARDI!
AND HE GETS PRAISED, TOO! I MUST GET RID OF TARDI! AKBAR DOESN'T REALISE TARDI IS A DOLT!
AND BAIRAM GAVE ORDERS TO EXECUTE TARDI.

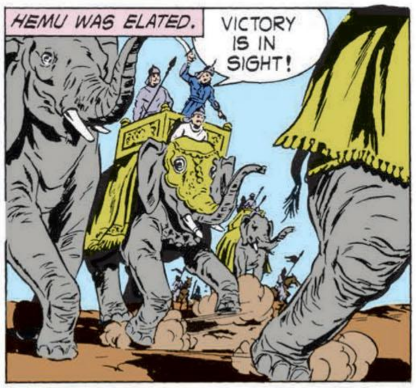
THE ARMIES OF AKBAR AND HEMU MET AT PANIPAT. IT WAS AT PANIPAT THAT BABUR, AKBAR'S GRANDFATHER, HAD WON HIS FIRST GREAT BATTLE IN HINDUSTAN.


PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
HEY, THERE, LOOK SHARP WITH THAT CANNON!

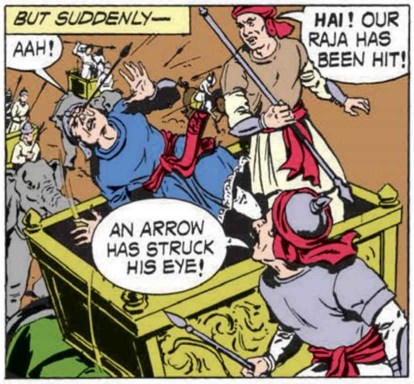
HEMU HAD A HUGE CAVALRY OF 50,000, WITH 1500 ELEPHANTS. THE MUGHALS HAD HALF THAT NUMBER OF CAVALRY. IT WAS GOING HARD FOR THE MUGHALS....

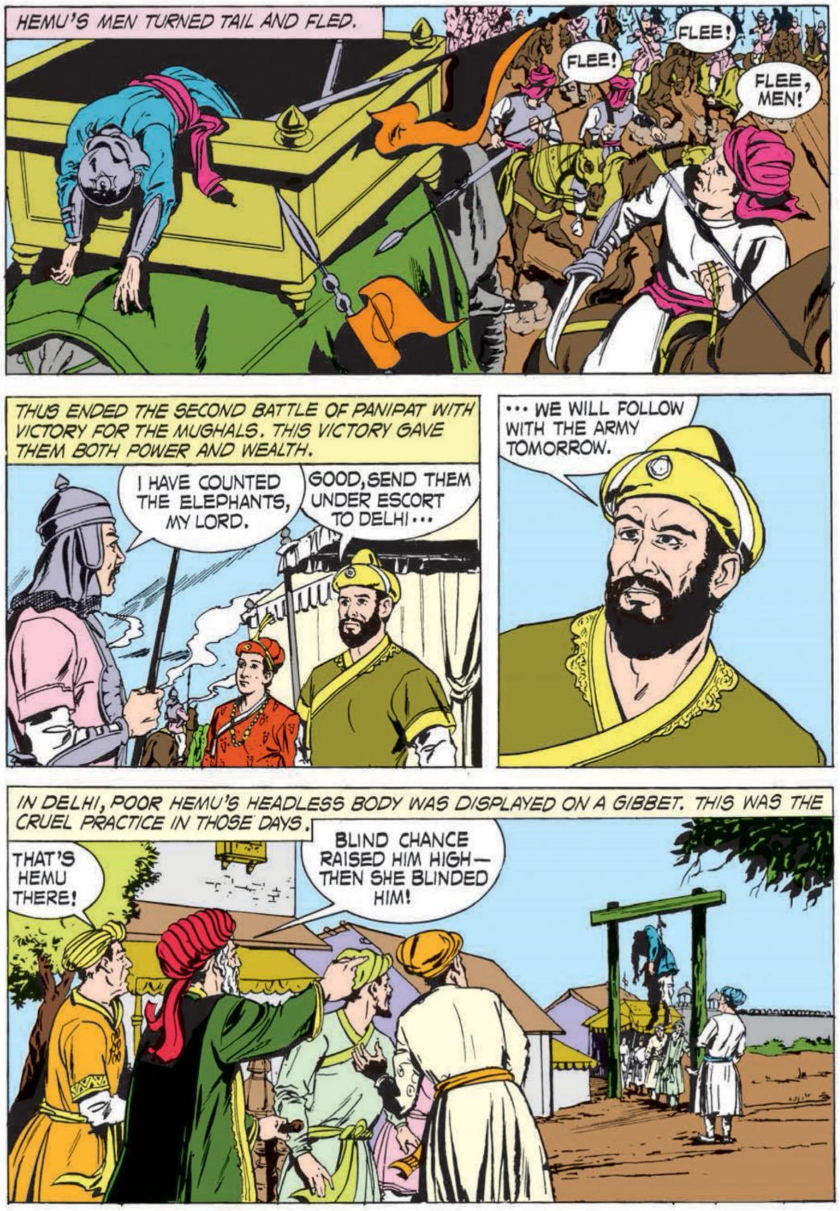


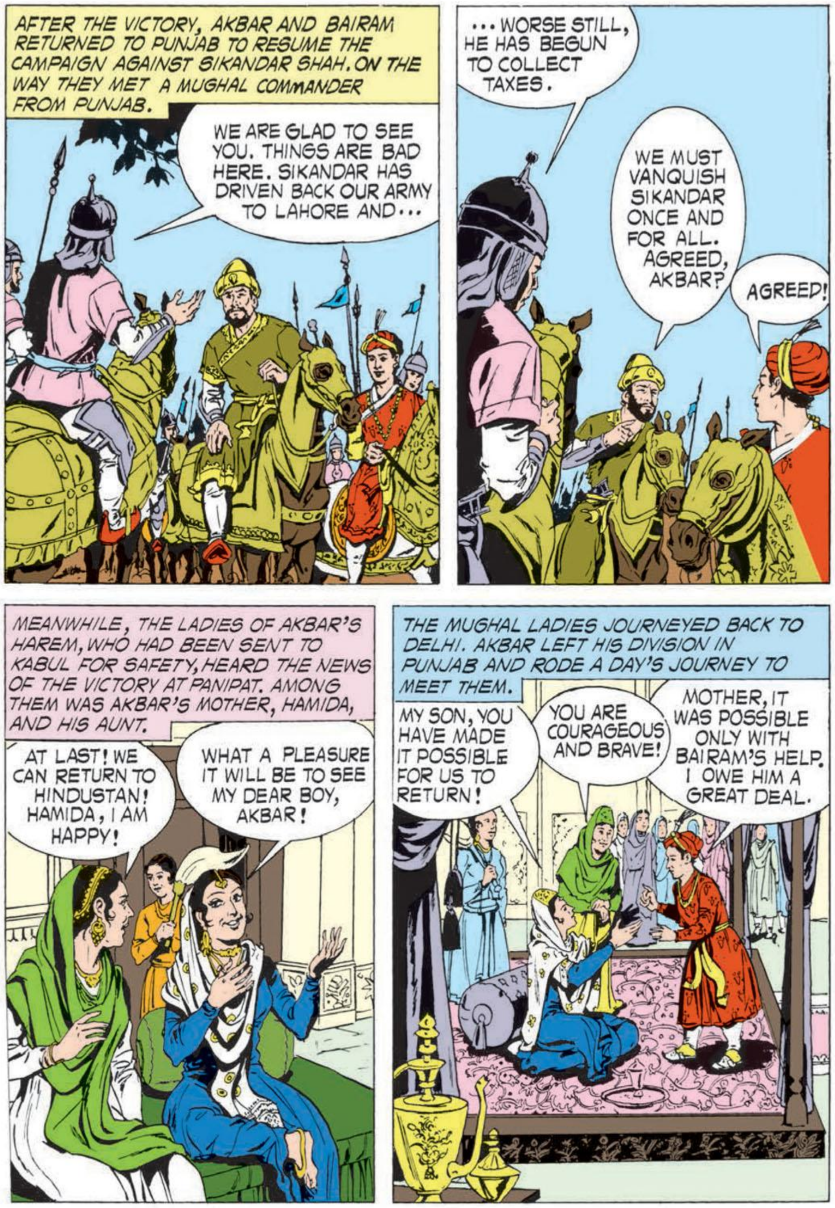
HEMU WAS ELATED.

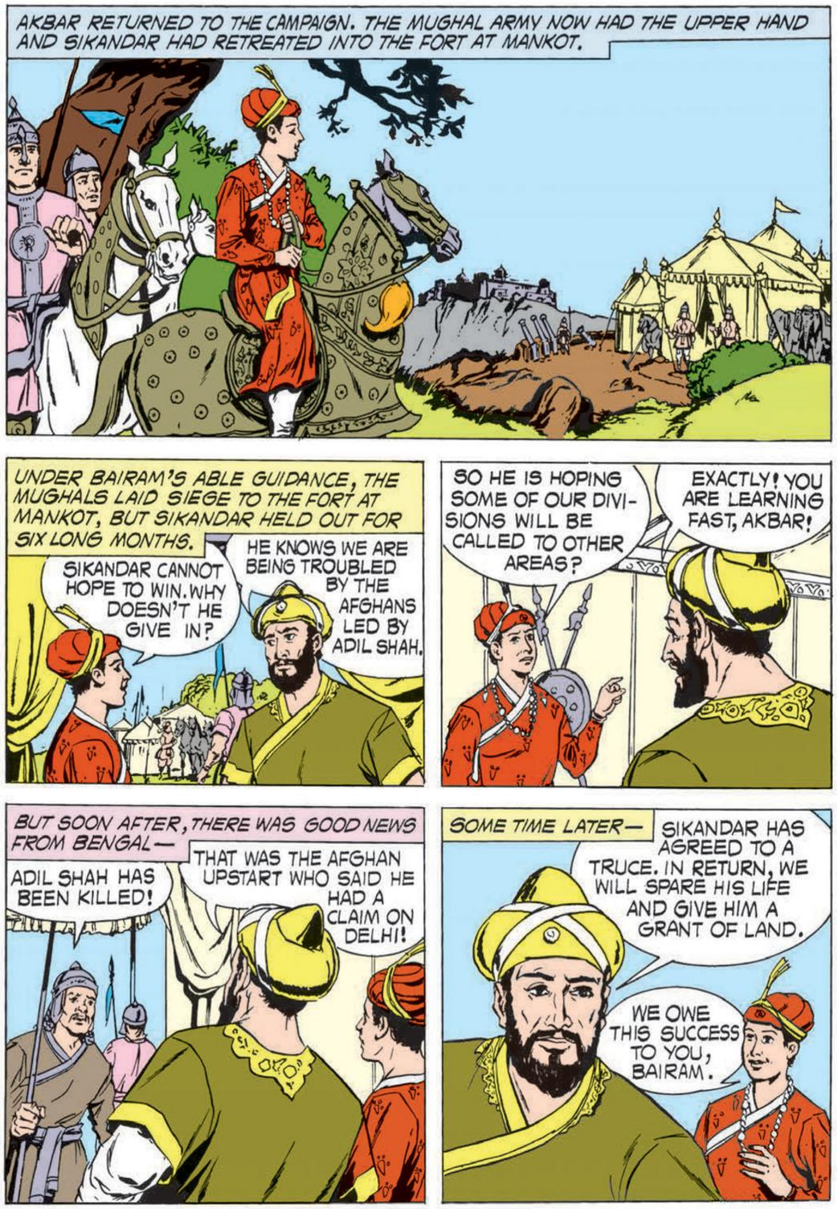

VICTORY IS IN SIGHT!

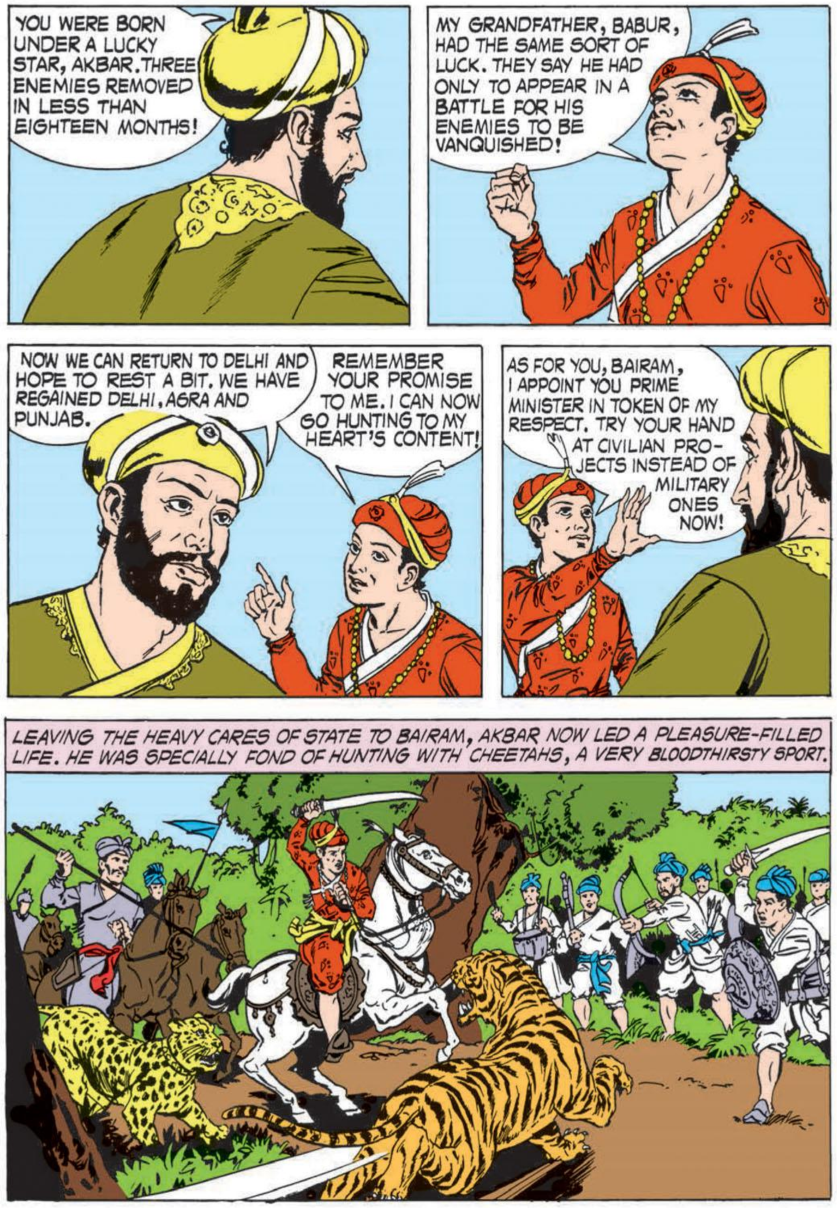
BUT SUDDENLY—

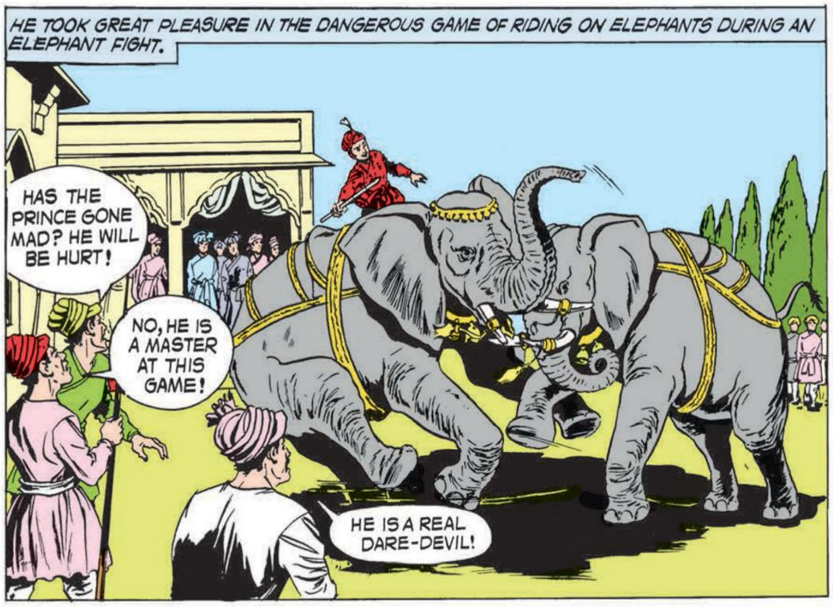

AAH!
HAI! OUR RAJA HAS BEEN HIT!
AN ARROW HAS STRUCK HIS EYE!

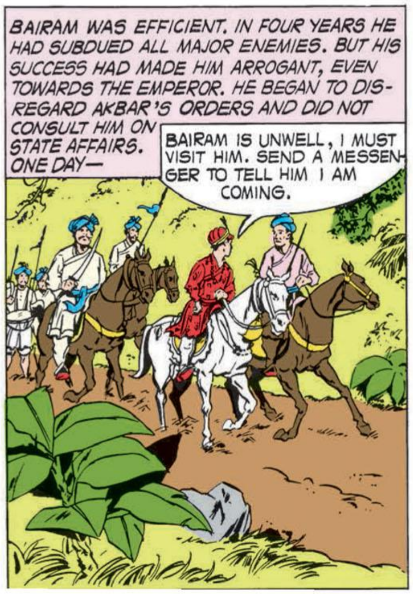

HEMU'S MEN TURNED TAIL AND FLED.
FLEE!
FLEE!
FLEE, MEN!
THUS ENDED THE SECOND BATTLE OF PANIPAT WITH VICTORY FOR THE MUGHALS. THIS VICTORY GAVE THEM BOTH POWER AND WEALTH.
I HAVE COUNTED THE ELEPHANTS, MY LORD.
GOOD, SEND THEM UNDER ESCORT TO DELHI...
... WE WILL FOLLOW WITH THE ARMY TOMORROW.
IN DELHI, POOR HEMU'S HEADLESS BODY WAS DISPLAYED ON A GIBBET. THIS WAS THE CRUEL PRACTICE IN THOSE DAYS.
THAT'S HEMU THERE!
BLIND CHANCE RAISED HIM HIGH— THEN SHE BLINDED HIM!

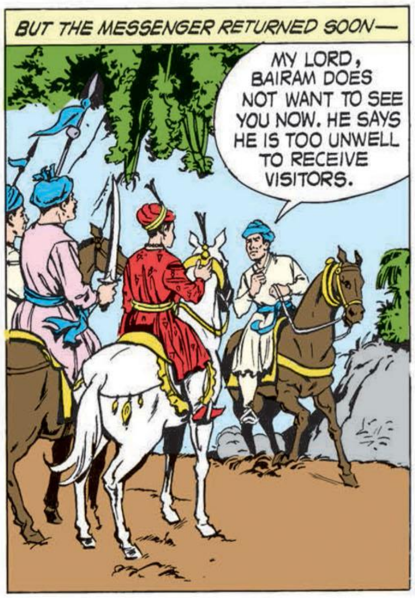

AFTER THE VICTORY, AKBAR AND BAIRAM RETURNED TO PUNJAB TO RESUME THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SIKANDAR SHAH. ON THE WAY THEY MET A MUGHAL COMMANDER FROM PUNJAB.
WE ARE GLAD TO SEE YOU. THINGS ARE BAD HERE. SIKANDAR HAS DRIVEN BACK OUR ARMY TO LAHORE AND...
...WORSE STILL, HE HAS BEGUN TO COLLECT TAXES.
WE MUST VANQUISH SIKANDAR ONCE AND FOR ALL. AGREED, AKBAR?
AGREED!
MEANWHILE, THE LADIES OF AKBAR'S HAREM, WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO KABUL FOR SAFETY, HEARD THE NEWS OF THE VICTORY AT PANIPAT. AMONG THEM WAS AKBAR'S MOTHER, HAMIDA, AND HIS AUNT.
AT LAST! WE CAN RETURN TO HINDUSTAN! HAMIDA, I AM HAPPY!
WHAT A PLEASURE IT WILL BE TO SEE MY DEAR BOY, AKBAR!
THE MUGHAL LADIES JOURNEYED BACK TO DELHI. AKBAR LEFT HIS DIVISION IN PUNJAB AND RODE A DAY'S JOURNEY TO MEET THEM.
MY SON, YOU HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO RETURN!
YOU ARE COURAGEOUS AND BRAVE!
MOTHER, IT WAS POSSIBLE ONLY WITH BAIRAM'S HELP. I OWE HIM A GREAT DEAL.

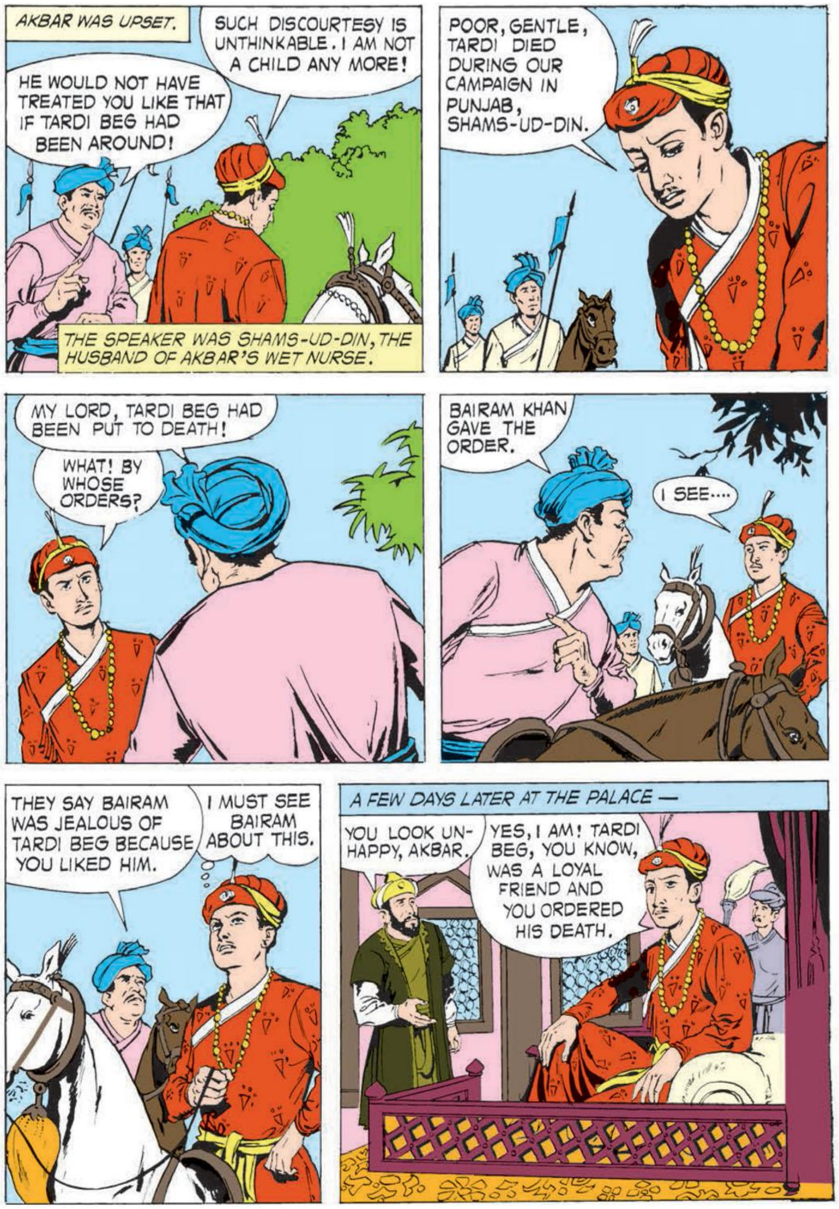

AKBAR RETURNED TO THE CAMPAIGN. THE MUGHAL ARMY NOW HAD THE UPPER HAND AND SIKANDAR HAD RETREATED INTO THE FORT AT MANKOT.
UNDER BAIRAM'S ABLE GUIDANCE, THE MUGHALS LAID SIEGE TO THE FORT AT MANKOT, BUT SIKANDAR HELD OUT FOR SIX LONG MONTHS.
SIKANDAR CANNOT HOPE TO WIN. WHY DOESN'T HE GIVE IN?
HE KNOWS WE ARE BEING TROUBLED BY THE AFGHANS LED BY ADIL SHAH.
SO HE IS HOPING SOME OF OUR DIVISIONS WILL BE CALLED TO OTHER AREAS?
EXACTLY! YOU ARE LEARNING FAST, AKBAR!
BUT SOON AFTER, THERE WAS GOOD NEWS FROM BENGAL—
ADIL SHAH HAS BEEN KILLED!
THAT WAS THE AFGHAN UPSTART WHO SAID HE HAD A CLAIM ON DELHI!
SOME TIME LATER—
SIKANDAR HAS AGREED TO A TRUCE. IN RETURN, WE WILL SPARE HIS LIFE AND GIVE HIM A GRANT OF LAND.
WE OWE THIS SUCCESS TO YOU, BAIRAM.

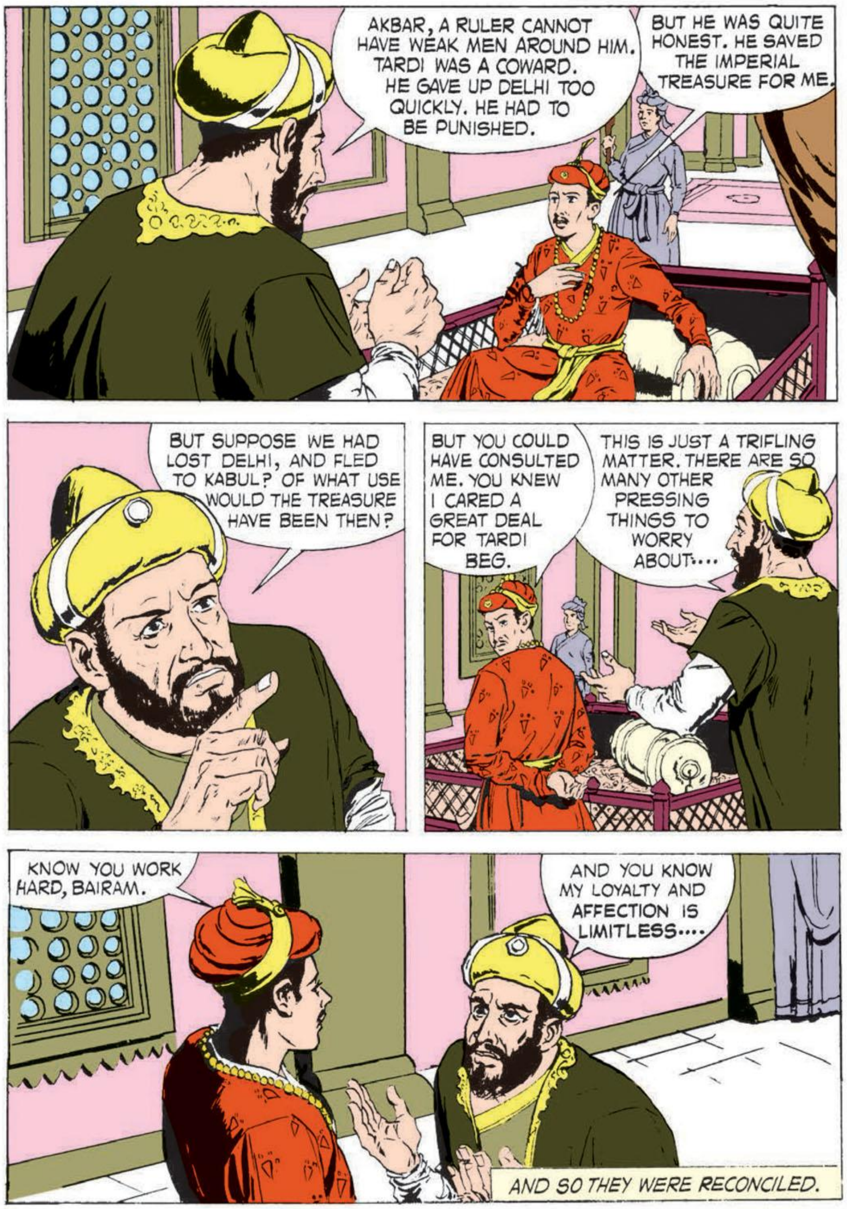

YOU WERE BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR, AKBAR. THREE ENEMIES REMOVED IN LESS THAN EIGHTEEN MONTHS!
MY GRANDFATHER, BABUR, HAD THE SAME SORT OF LUCK. THEY SAY HE HAD ONLY TO APPEAR IN A BATTLE FOR HIS ENEMIES TO BE VANQUISHED!
NOW WE CAN RETURN TO DELHI AND HOPE TO REST A BIT. WE HAVE REGAINED DELHI, AGRA AND PUNJAB.
REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE TO ME. I CAN NOW GO HUNTING TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!
AS FOR YOU, BAIRAM, I APPOINT YOU PRIME MINISTER IN TOKEN OF MY RESPECT. TRY YOUR HAND AT CIVILIAN PROJECTS INSTEAD OF MILITARY ONES NOW!
LEAVING THE HEAVY CARES OF STATE TO BAIRAM, AKBAR NOW LED A PLEASURE-FILLED LIFE. HE WAS SPECIALLY FOND OF HUNTING WITH CHEETAHS, A VERY BLOODTHIRSTY SPORT.

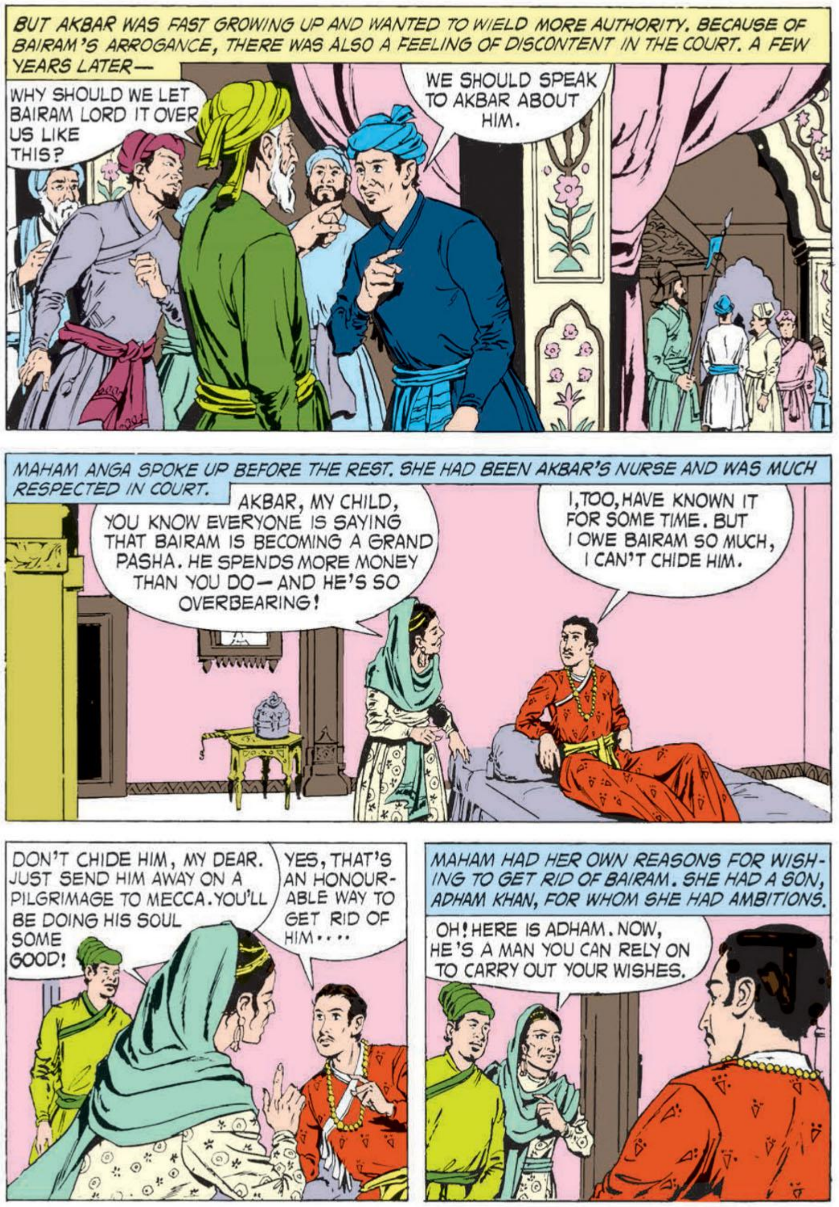

HE TOOK GREAT PLEASURE IN THE DANGEROUS GAME OF RIDING ON ELEPHANTS DURING AN ELEPHANT FIGHT.
HAS THE PRINCE GONE MAD? HE WILL BE HURT!
NO, HE IS A MASTER AT THIS GAME!
HE IS A REAL DARE-DEVIL!


BAIRAM WAS EFFICIENT. IN FOUR YEARS HE HAD SUBDUED ALL MAJOR ENEMIES. BUT HIS SUCCESS HAD MADE HIM ARROGANT, EVEN TOWARDS THE EMPEROR. HE BEGAN TO DISREGARD AKBAR'S ORDERS AND DID NOT CONSULT HIM ON STATE AFFAIRS. ONE DAY—
BAIRAM IS UNWELL, I MUST VISIT HIM. SEND A MESSENGER TO TELL HIM I AM COMING.

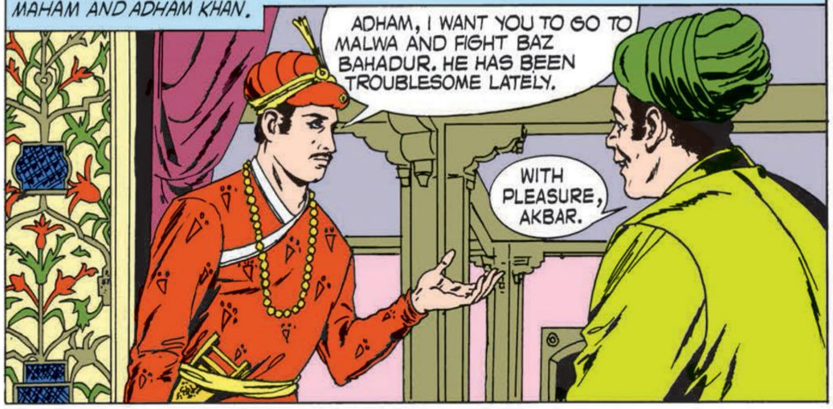

BUT THE MESSENGER RETURNED SOON—
MY LORD, BAIRAM DOES NOT WANT TO SEE YOU NOW. HE SAYS HE IS TOO UNWELL TO RECEIVE VISITORS.


AKBAR WAS UPSET.
SUCH DISCOURTESY IS UNTHINKABLE. I AM NOT A CHILD ANY MORE!
HE WOULD NOT HAVE TREATED YOU LIKE THAT IF TARDI BEG HAD BEEN AROUND!
THE SPEAKER WAS SHAMS-UD-DIN, THE HUSBAND OF AKBAR'S WET NURSE.
POOR, GENTLE, TARDI DIED DURING OUR CAMPAIGN IN PUNJAB, SHAMS-UD-DIN.
MY LORD, TARDI BEG HAD BEEN PUT TO DEATH!
WHAT! BY WHOSE ORDERS?
BAIRAM KHAN GAVE THE ORDER.
I SEE....
THEY SAY BAIRAM WAS JEALOUS OF TARDI BEG BECAUSE YOU LIKED HIM.
I MUST SEE BAIRAM ABOUT THIS.
A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE PALACE —
YOU LOOK UNHAPPY, AKBAR.
YES, I AM! TARDI BEG, YOU KNOW, WAS A LOYAL FRIEND AND YOU ORDERED HIS DEATH.

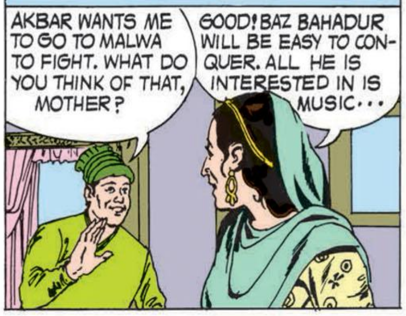

AKBAR, A RULER CANNOT HAVE WEAK MEN AROUND HIM. TARDI WAS A COWARD. HE GAVE UP DELHI TOO QUICKLY. HE HAD TO BE PUNISHED.
BUT HE WAS QUITE HONEST. HE SAVED THE IMPERIAL TREASURE FOR ME.
BUT SUPPOSE WE HAD LOST DELHI, AND FLED TO KABUL? OF WHAT USE WOULD THE TREASURE HAVE BEEN THEN?
BUT YOU COULD HAVE CONSULTED ME. YOU KNEW I CARED A GREAT DEAL FOR TARDI BEG.
THIS IS JUST A TRIFLING MATTER. THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER PRESSING THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT....
KNOW YOU WORK HARD, BAIRAM.
AND YOU KNOW MY LOYALTY AND AFFECTION IS LIMITLESS....
AND SO THEY WERE RECONCILED.

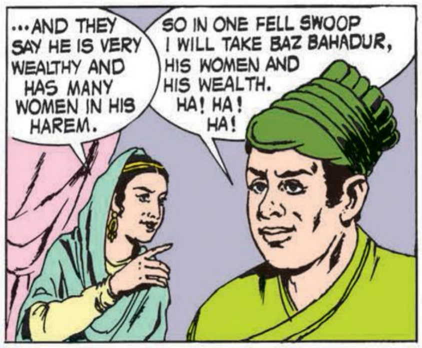

BUT AKBAR WAS FAST GROWING UP AND WANTED TO WIELD MORE AUTHORITY. BECAUSE OF BAIRAM'S ARROGANCE, THERE WAS ALSO A FEELING OF DISCONTENT IN THE COURT. A FEW YEARS LATER—
WHY SHOULD WE LET BAIRAM LORD IT OVER US LIKE THIS?
WE SHOULD SPEAK TO AKBAR ABOUT HIM.
MAHAM ANGA SPOKE UP BEFORE THE REST. SHE HAD BEEN AKBAR'S NURSE AND WAS MUCH RESPECTED IN COURT.
AKBAR, MY CHILD, YOU KNOW EVERYONE IS SAYING THAT BAIRAM IS BECOMING A GRAND PASHA. HE SPENDS MORE MONEY THAN YOU DO— AND HE'S SO OVERBEARING!
I, TOO, HAVE KNOWN IT FOR SOME TIME. BUT I OWE BAIRAM SO MUCH, I CAN'T CHIDE HIM.
DON'T CHIDE HIM, MY DEAR. JUST SEND HIM AWAY ON A PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. YOU'LL BE DOING HIS SOUL SOME GOOD!
YES, THAT'S AN HONOURABLE WAY TO GET RID OF HIM...
MAHAM HAD HER OWN REASONS FOR WISHING TO GET RID OF BAIRAM. SHE HAD A SON, ADHAM KHAN, FOR WHOM SHE HAD AMBITIONS.
OH! HERE IS ADHAM. NOW, HE'S A MAN YOU CAN RELY ON TO CARRY OUT YOUR WISHES.

BAIRAM KHAN WAS SENT AWAY ON A PILGRIMAGE. AKBAR BEGAN TO RELY HEAVILY ON MAHAM AND ADHAM KHAN.

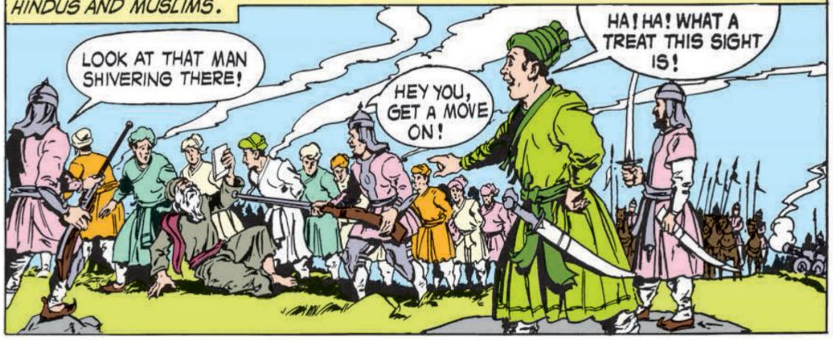

ADHAM, I WANT YOU TO GO TO MALWA AND FIGHT BAZ BAHADUR. HE HAS BEEN TROUBLESOME LATELY.
WITH PLEASURE, AKBAR.

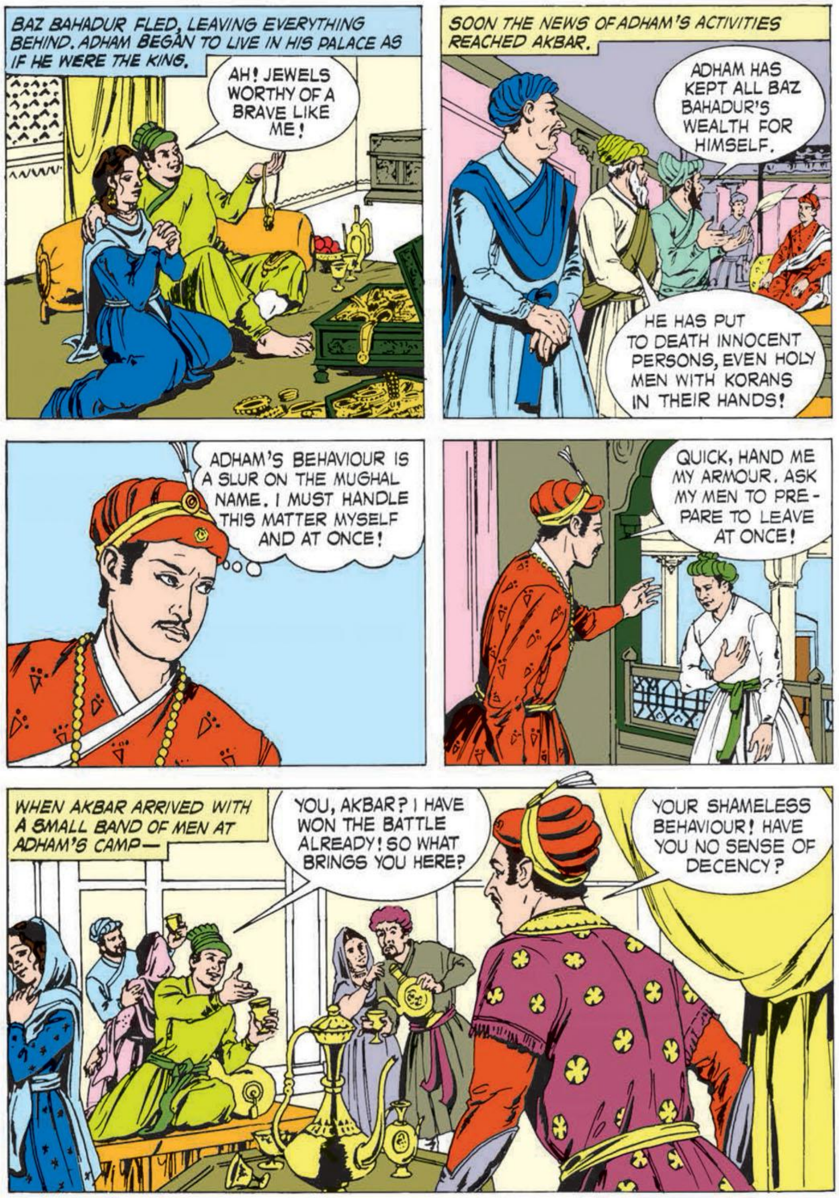
LATER ADHAM DISCUSSED IT WITH HIS MOTHER.

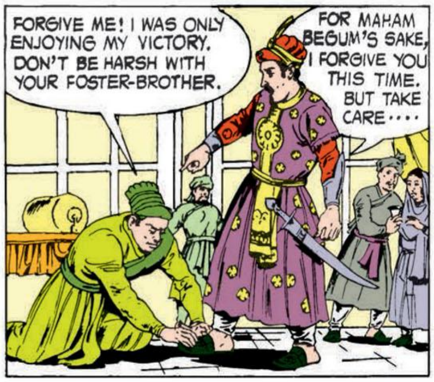

AKBAR WANTS ME TO GO TO MALWA TO FIGHT. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, MOTHER?
GOOD! BAZ BAHADUR WILL BE EASY TO CONQUER. ALL HE IS INTERESTED IN IS MUSIC...

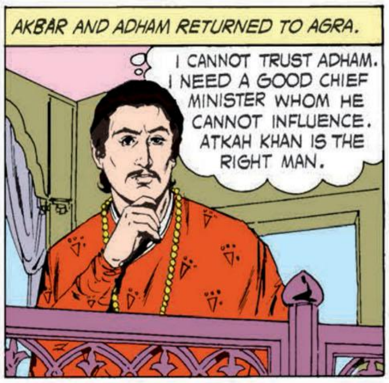

...AND THEY SAY HE IS VERY WEALTHY AND HAS MANY WOMEN IN HIS HAREM.
SO IN ONE FELL SWOOP I WILL TAKE BAZ BAHADUR, HIS WOMEN AND HIS WEALTH. HA! HA! HA!

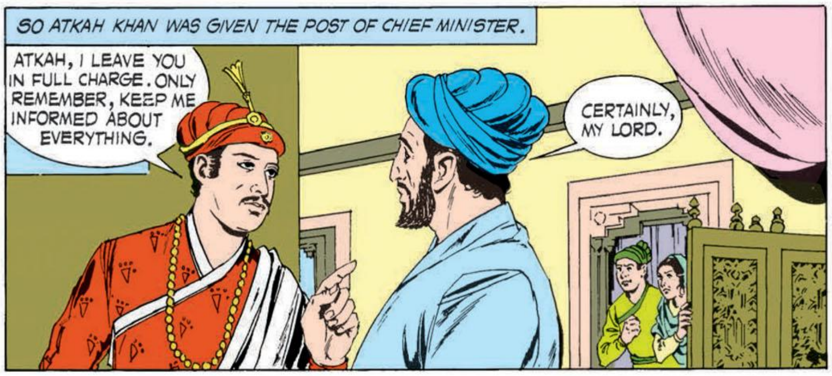
AS WAS EXPECTED, THE BATTLE WAS A BRIEF ONE WHICH THE MUGHALS WON. ADHAM KHAN TREATED THE VICTIMS CRUELLY. HE MASSACRED INNOCENT CITIZENS, BOTH HINDUS AND MUSLIMS.

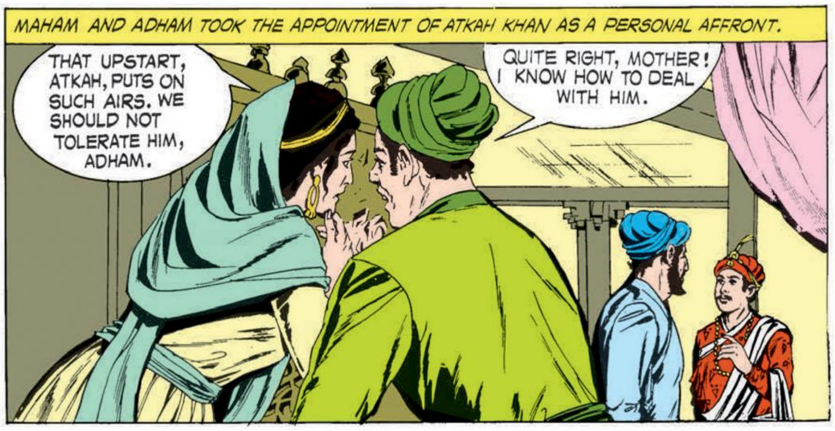

LOOK AT THAT MAN SHIVERING THERE!
HEY YOU, GET A MOVE ON!
HA! HA! WHAT A TREAT THIS SIGHT IS!

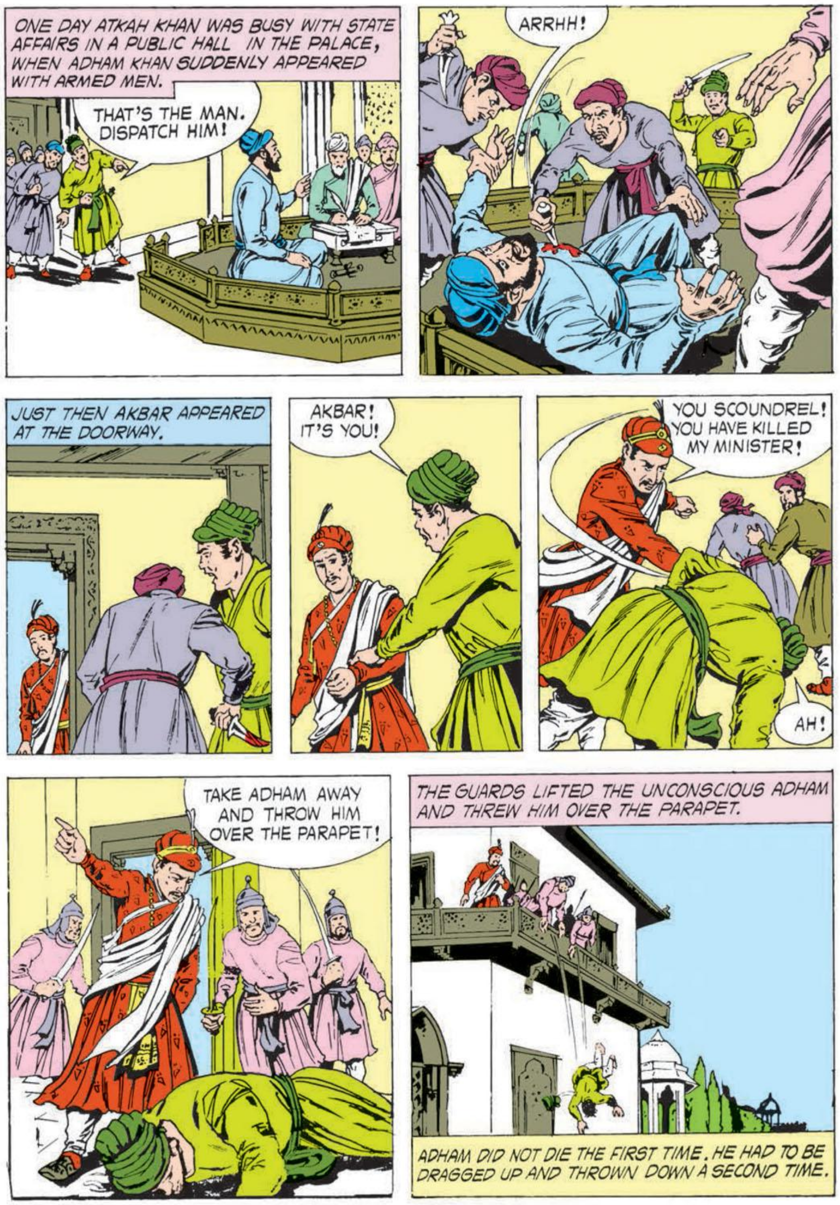

BAZ BAHADUR FLED, LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND. ADHAM BEGAN TO LIVE IN HIS PALACE AS IF HE WERE THE KING.
AH! JEWELS WORTHY OF A BRAVE LIKE ME!
SOON THE NEWS OF ADHAM'S ACTIVITIES REACHED AKBAR.
ADHAM HAS KEPT ALL BAZ BAHADUR'S WEALTH FOR HIMSELF.
HE HAS PUT TO DEATH INNOCENT PERSONS, EVEN HOLY MEN WITH KORANS IN THEIR HANDS!
ADHAM'S BEHAVIOUR IS A SLUR ON THE MUGHAL NAME. I MUST HANDLE THIS MATTER MYSELF AND AT ONCE!
QUICK, HAND ME MY ARMOUR. ASK MY MEN TO PREPARE TO LEAVE AT ONCE!
WHEN AKBAR ARRIVED WITH A SMALL BAND OF MEN AT ADHAM'S CAMP—
YOU, AKBAR? I HAVE WON THE BATTLE ALREADY! SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
YOUR SHAMELESS BEHAVIOUR! HAVE YOU NO SENSE OF DECENCY?

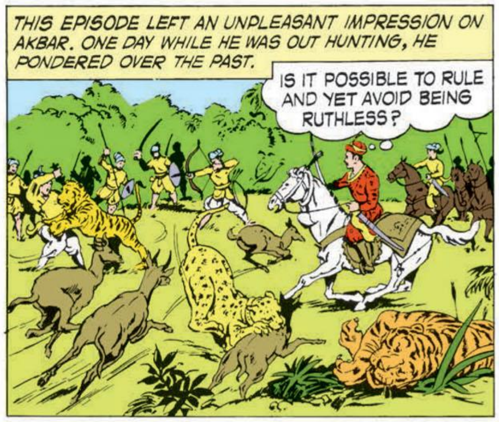

FORGIVE ME! I WAS ONLY ENJOYING MY VICTORY. DON'T BE HARSH WITH YOUR FOSTER-BROTHER.
FOR MAHAM BEGUM'S SAKE, I FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME. BUT TAKE CARE....

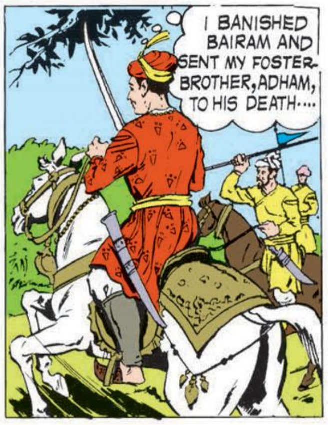

AKBAR AND ADHAM RETURNED TO AGRA.
I CANNOT TRUST ADHAM. I NEED A GOOD CHIEF MINISTER WHOM HE CANNOT INFLUENCE. ATKAH KHAN IS THE RIGHT MAN.

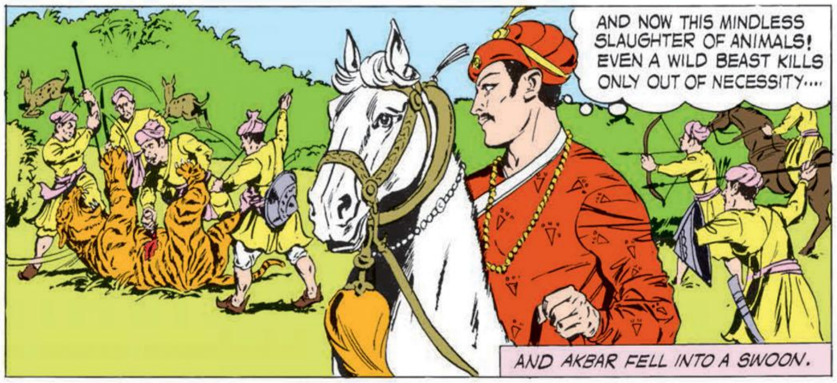

SO ATKAH KHAN WAS GIVEN THE POST OF CHIEF MINISTER.
ATKAH, I LEAVE YOU IN FULL CHARGE. ONLY REMEMBER, KEEP ME INFORMED ABOUT EVERYTHING.
CERTAINLY, MY LORD.

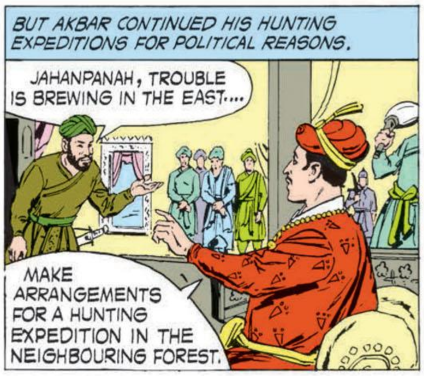

MAHAM AND ADHAM TOOK THE APPOINTMENT OF ATKAH KHAN AS A PERSONAL AFFRONT.
THAT UPSTART, ATKAH, PUTS ON SUCH AIRS. WE SHOULD NOT TOLERATE HIM, ADHAM.
QUITE RIGHT, MOTHER! I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM.

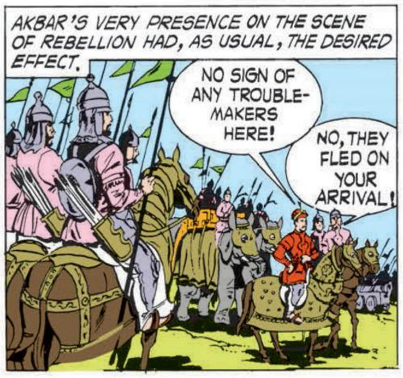

ONE DAY ATKAH KHAN WAS BUSY WITH STATE AFFAIRS IN A PUBLIC HALL IN THE PALACE, WHEN ADHAM KHAN SUDDENLY APPEARED WITH ARMED MEN.
THAT'S THE MAN. DISPATCH HIM!
ARRHH!
JUST THEN AKBAR APPEARED AT THE DOORWAY.
AKBAR! IT'S YOU!
YOU SCOUNDREL! YOU HAVE KILLED MY MINISTER!
AH!
TAKE ADHAM AWAY AND THROW HIM OVER THE PARAPET!
THE GUARDS LIFTED THE UNCONSCIOUS ADHAM AND THREW HIM OVER THE PARAPET.
ADHAM DID NOT DIE THE FIRST TIME. HE HAD TO BE DRAGGED UP AND THROWN DOWN A SECOND TIME.

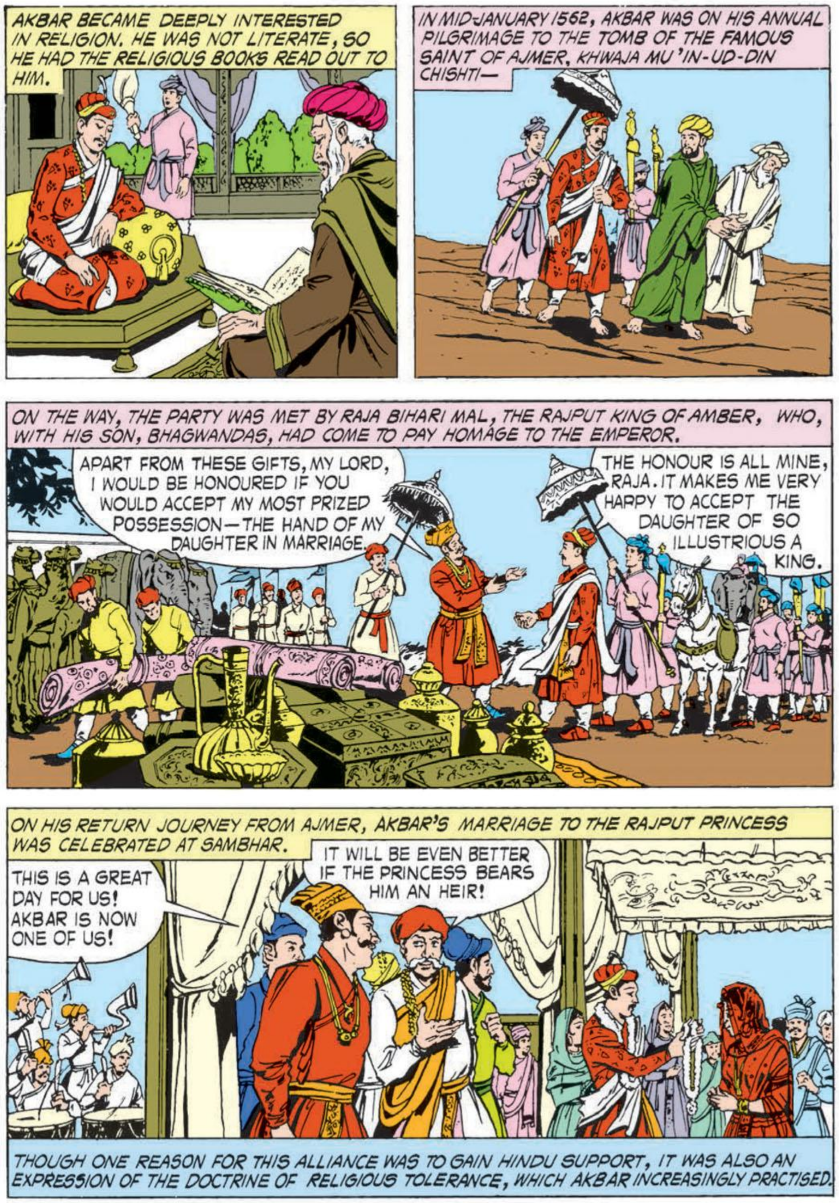

THIS EPISODE LEFT AN UNPLEASANT IMPRESSION ON AKBAR. ONE DAY WHILE HE WAS OUT HUNTING, HE PONDERED OVER THE PAST.
IS IT POSSIBLE TO RULE AND YET AVOID BEING RUTHLESS?

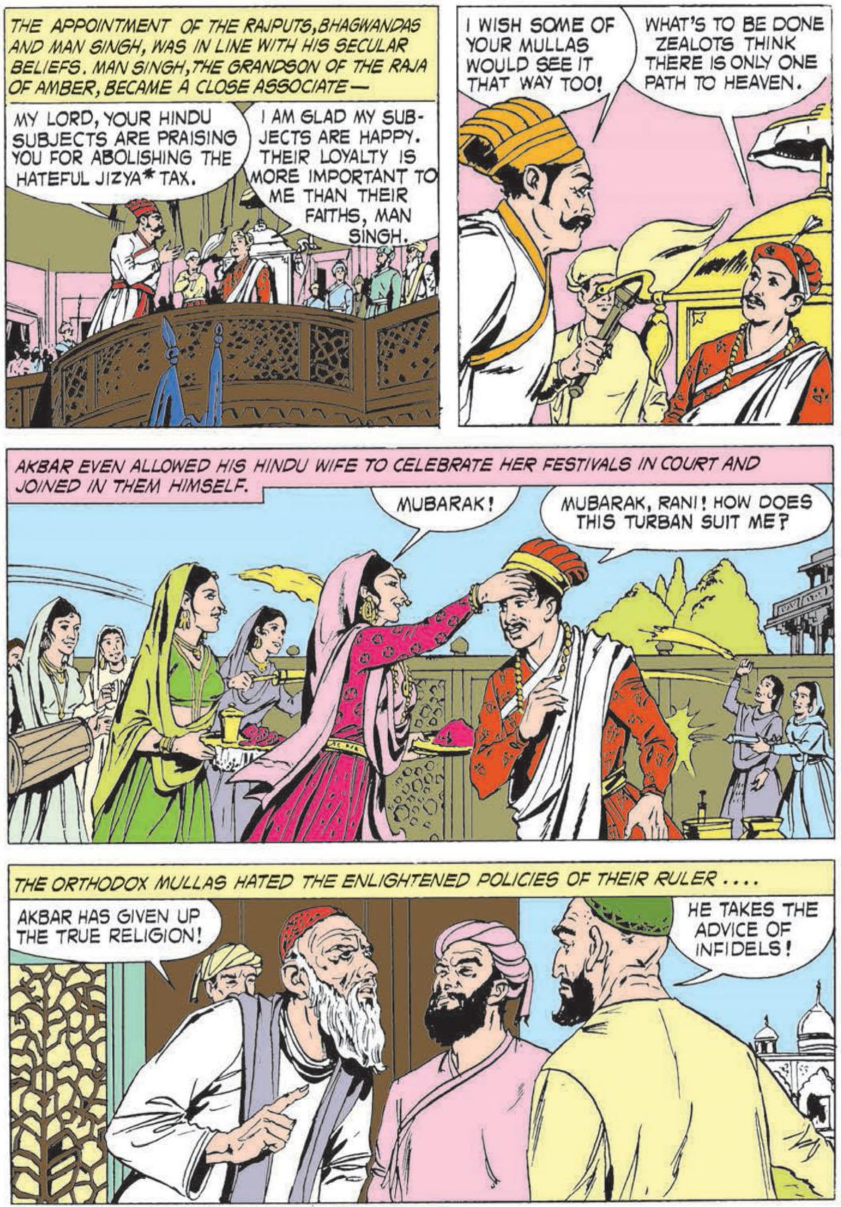

I BANISHED BAIRAM AND SENT MY FOSTER-BROTHER, ADHAM, TO HIS DEATH....


AND NOW THIS MINDLESS SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS! EVEN A WILD BEAST KILLS ONLY OUT OF NECESSITY....
AND AKBAR FELL INTO A SWOON.


BUT AKBAR CONTINUED HIS HUNTING EXPEDITIONS FOR POLITICAL REASONS.
JAHANPANAH, TROUBLE IS BREWING IN THE EAST....
MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A HUNTING EXPEDITION IN THE NEIGHBOURING FOREST.


AKBAR'S VERY PRESENCE ON THE SCENE OF REBELLION HAD, AS USUAL, THE DESIRED EFFECT.
NO SIGN OF ANY TROUBLE-MAKERS HERE!
NO, THEY FLED ON YOUR ARRIVAL!


AKBAR BECAME DEEPLY INTERESTED IN RELIGION. HE WAS NOT LITERATE, SO HE HAD THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS READ OUT TO HIM.
IN MID-JANUARY 1562, AKBAR WAS ON HIS ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB OF THE FAMOUS SAINT OF AJMER, KHWAJA MU'IN-UD-DIN CHISHTI—
ON THE WAY, THE PARTY WAS MET BY RAJA BIHARI MAL, THE RAJPUT KING OF AMBER, WHO, WITH HIS SON, BHAGWANDAS, HAD COME TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE EMPEROR.
APART FROM THESE GIFTS, MY LORD, I WOULD BE HONOURED IF YOU WOULD ACCEPT MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION—THE HAND OF MY DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE.
THE HONOUR IS ALL MINE, RAJA. IT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY TO ACCEPT THE DAUGHTER OF SO ILLUSTRIOUS A KING.
ON HIS RETURN JOURNEY FROM AJMER, AKBAR'S MARRIAGE TO THE RAJPUT PRINCESS WAS CELEBRATED AT SAMBHAR.
THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR US! AKBAR IS NOW ONE OF US!
IT WILL BE EVEN BETTER IF THE PRINCESS BEARS HIM AN HEIR!
THOUGH ONE REASON FOR THIS ALLIANCE WAS TO GAIN HINDU SUPPORT, IT WAS ALSO AN EXPRESSION OF THE DOCTRINE OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE, WHICH AKBAR INCREASINGLY PRACTISED.


THE APPOINTMENT OF THE RAJPUTS, BHAGWANDAS AND MAN SINGH, WAS IN LINE WITH HIS SECULAR BELIEFS. MAN SINGH, THE GRANDSON OF THE RAJA OF AMBER, BECAME A CLOSE ASSOCIATE—
MY LORD, YOUR HINDU SUBJECTS ARE PRAISING YOU FOR ABOLISHING THE HATEFUL JIZYA* TAX.
I AM GLAD MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. THEIR LOYALTY IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THEIR FAITHS, MAN SINGH.
I WISH SOME OF YOUR MULLAS WOULD SEE IT THAT WAY TOO!
WHAT'S TO BE DONE ZEALOTS THINK THERE IS ONLY ONE PATH TO HEAVEN.
AKBAR EVEN ALLOWED HIS HINDU WIFE TO CELEBRATE HER FESTIVALS IN COURT AND JOINED IN THEM HIMSELF.
MUBARAK!
MUBARAK, RANI! HOW DOES THIS TURBAN SUIT ME?
THE ORTHODOX MULLAS HATED THE ENLIGHTENED POLICIES OF THEIR RULER....
AKBAR HAS GIVEN UP THE TRUE RELIGION!
HE TAKES THE ADVICE OF INFIDELS!

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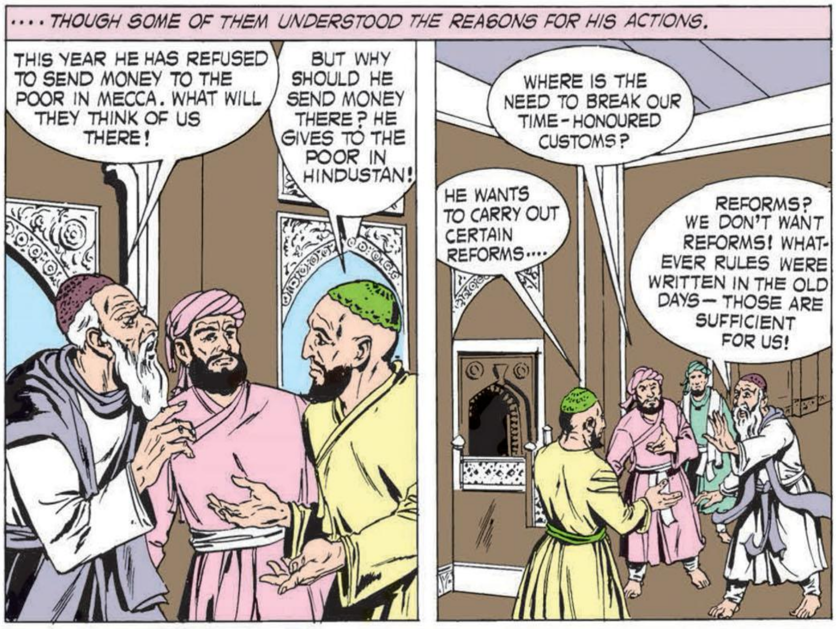
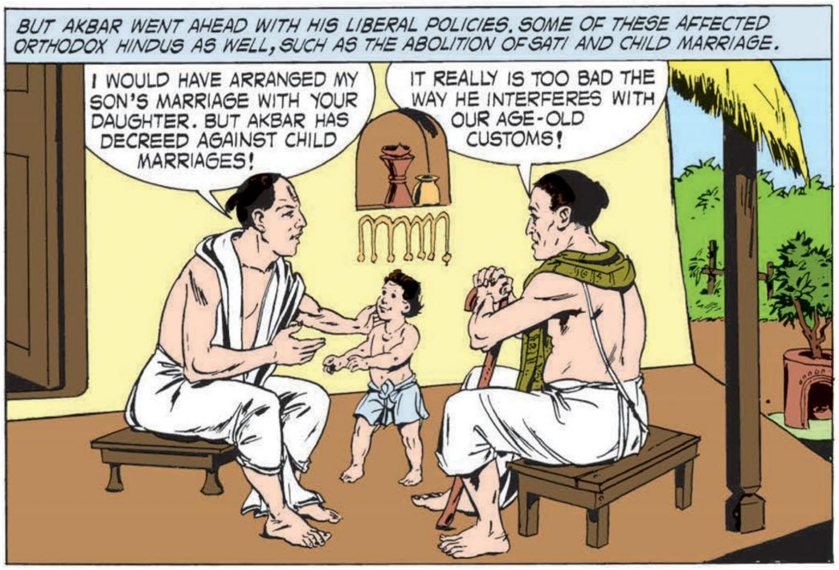
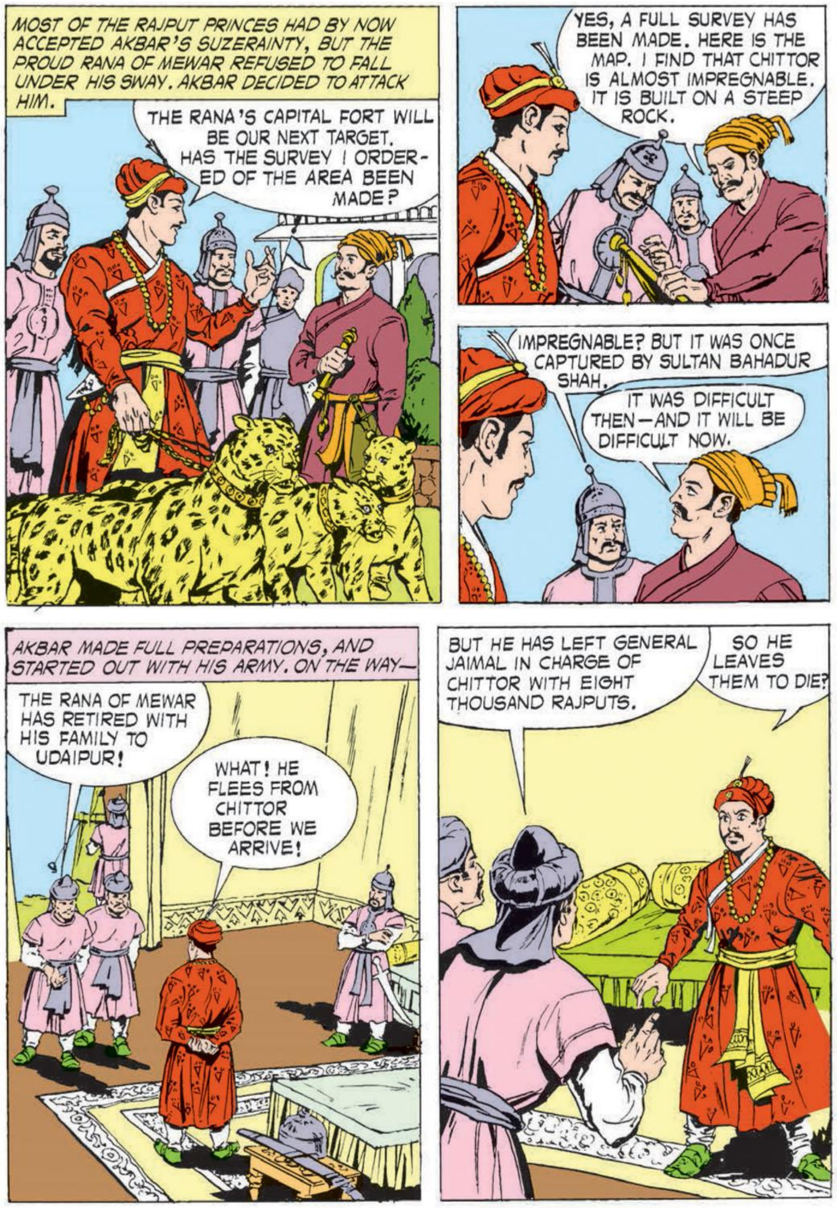
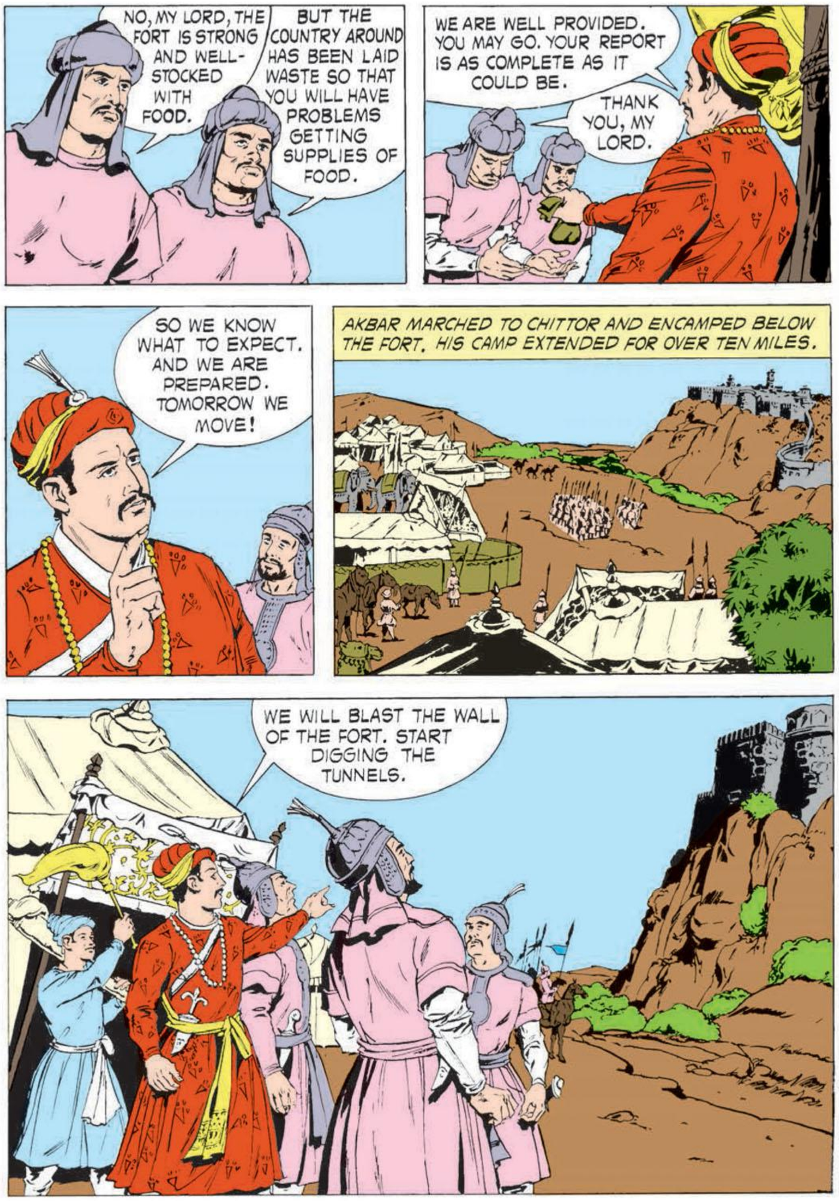
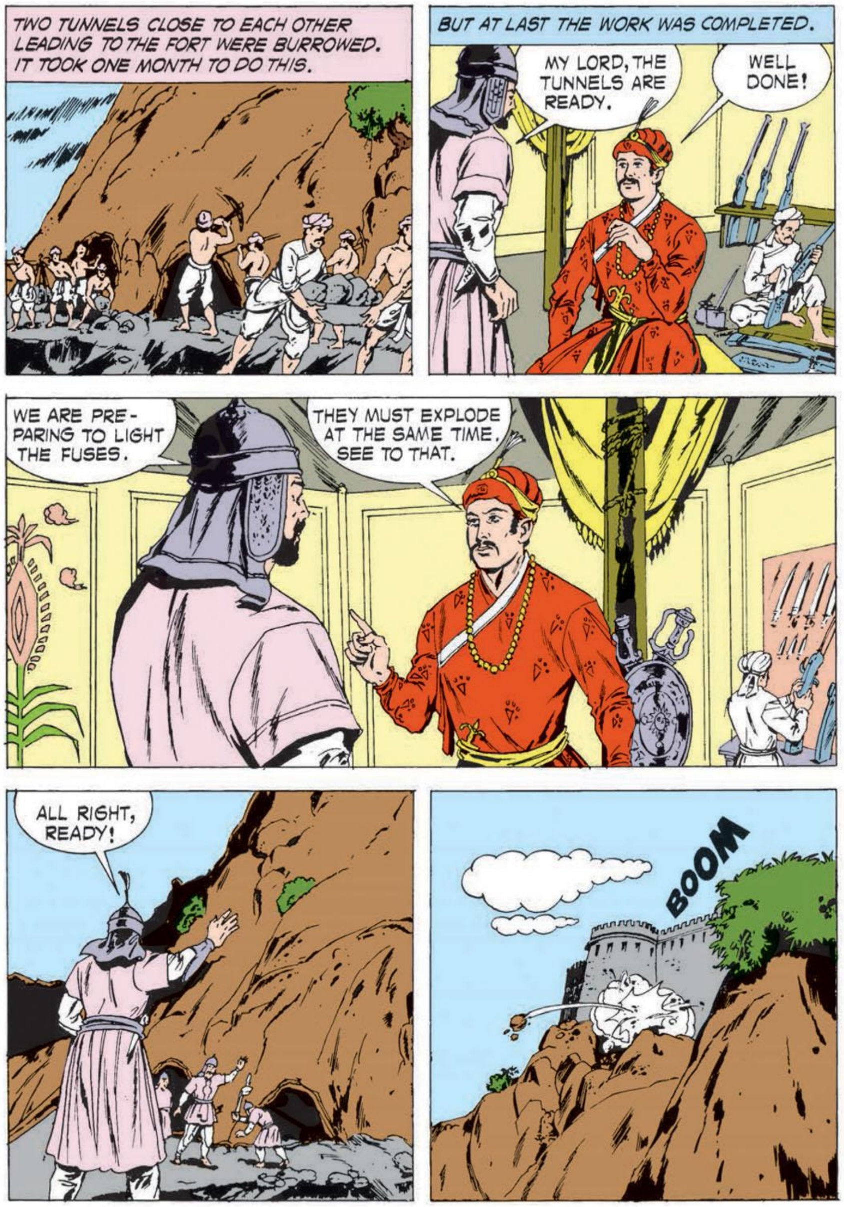
*A TAX LEVIED ONLY ON HINDUS, NOT MUSLIMS

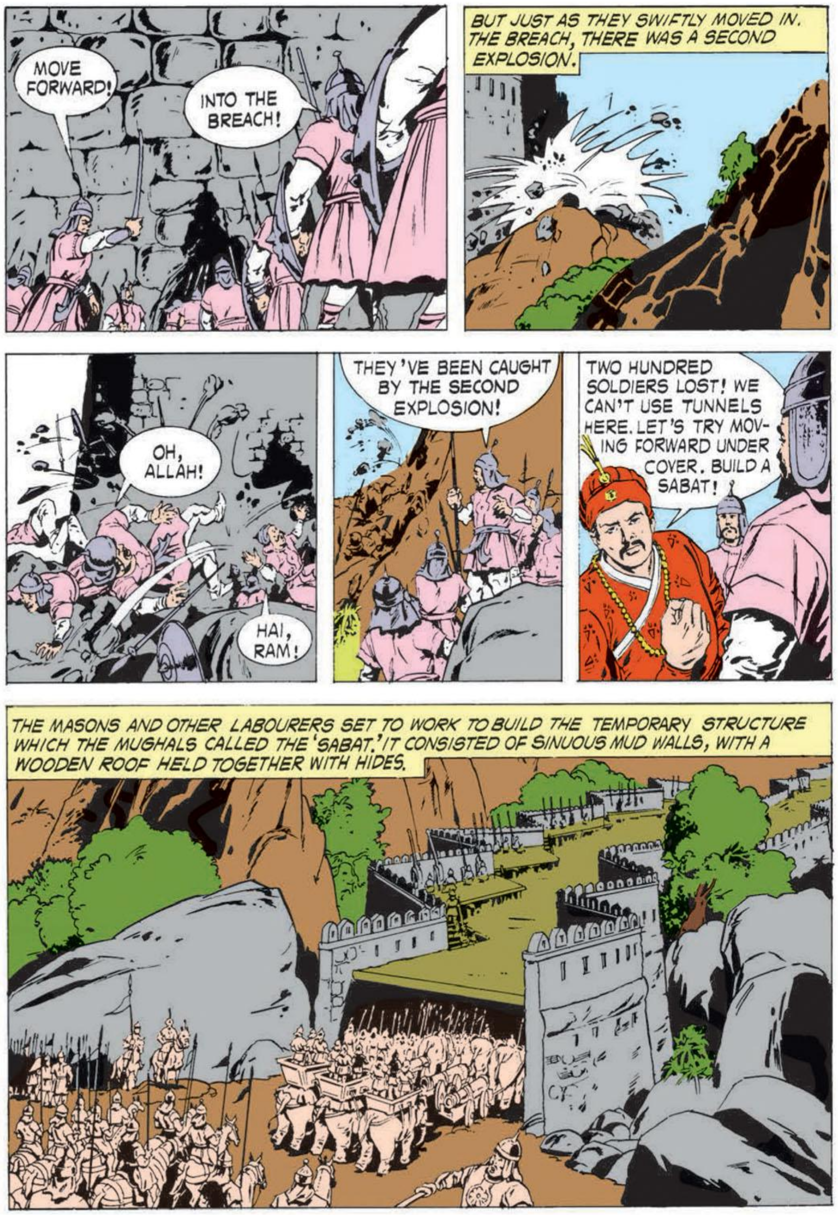

....THOUGH SOME OF THEM UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR HIS ACTIONS.
THIS YEAR HE HAS REFUSED TO SEND MONEY TO THE POOR IN MECCA. WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF US THERE!
BUT WHY SHOULD HE SEND MONEY THERE? HE GIVES TO THE POOR IN HINDUSTAN!
WHERE IS THE NEED TO BREAK OUR TIME-HONOURED CUSTOMS?
HE WANTS TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN REFORMS....
REFORMS? WE DON'T WANT REFORMS! WHATEVER RULES WERE WRITTEN IN THE OLD DAYS— THOSE ARE SUFFICIENT FOR US!

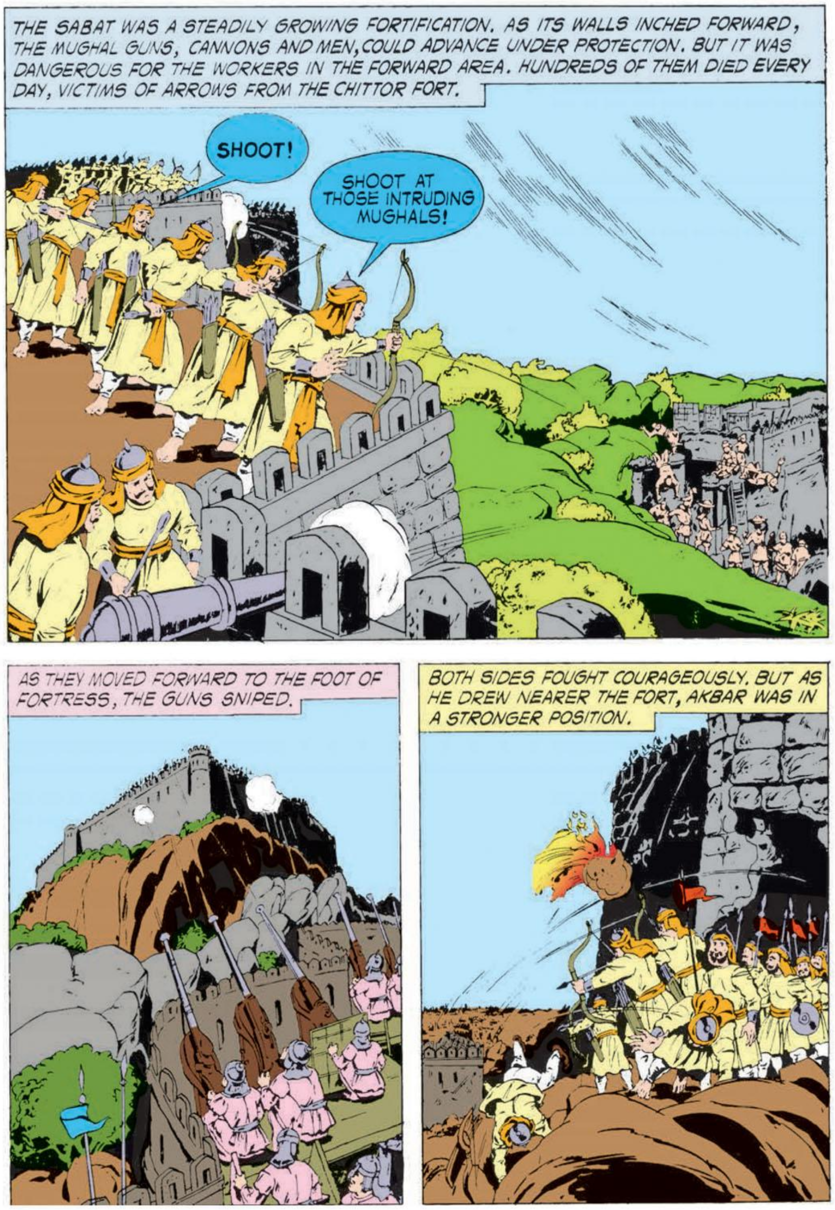

BUT AKBAR WENT AHEAD WITH HIS LIBERAL POLICIES. SOME OF THESE AFFECTED ORTHODOX HINDUS AS WELL, SUCH AS THE ABOLITION OF SATI AND CHILD MARRIAGE.
I WOULD HAVE ARRANGED MY SON'S MARRIAGE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER. BUT AKBAR HAS DECREED AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGES!
IT REALLY IS TOO BAD THE WAY HE INTERFERES WITH OUR AGE-OLD CUSTOMS!

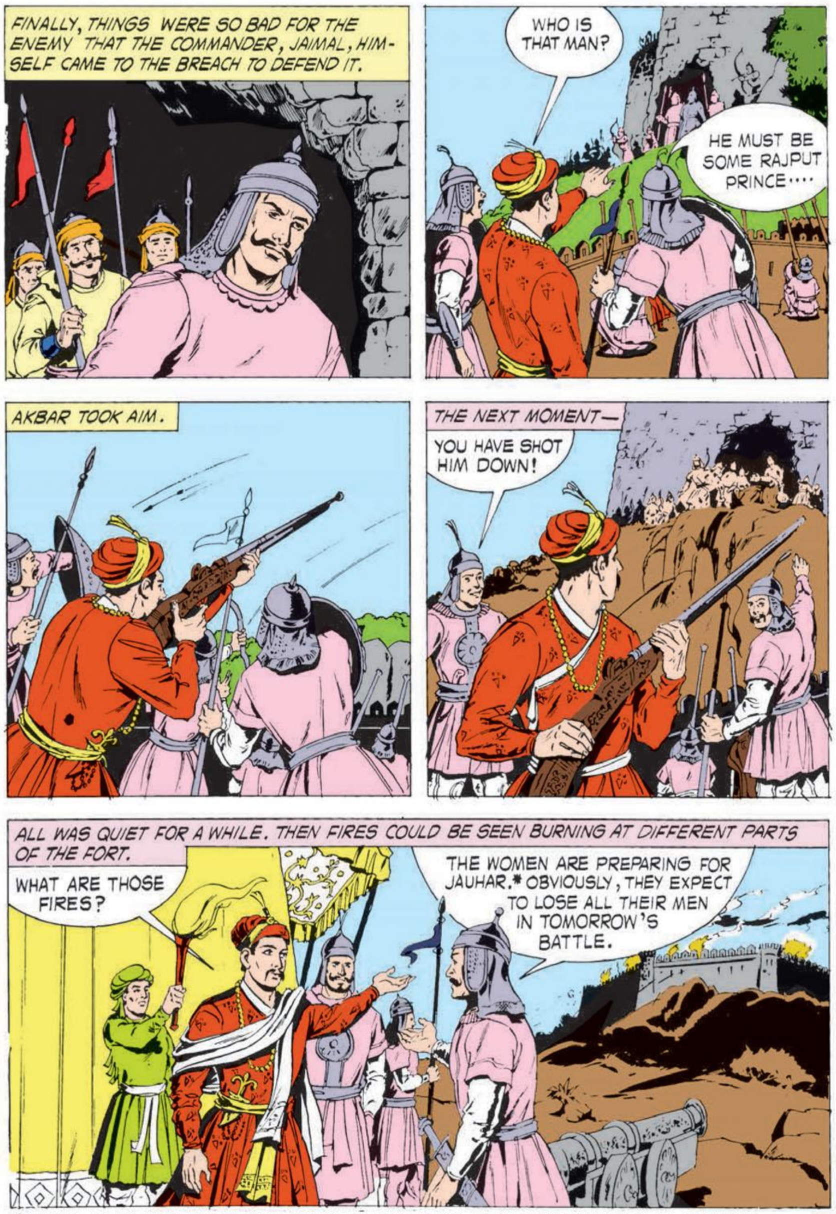

MOST OF THE RAJPUT PRINCES HAD BY NOW ACCEPTED AKBAR'S SUZERAINTY, BUT THE PROUD RANA OF MEWAR REFUSED TO FALL UNDER HIS SWAY. AKBAR DECIDED TO ATTACK HIM.
THE RANA'S CAPITAL FORT WILL BE OUR NEXT TARGET. HAS THE SURVEY I ORDERED OF THE AREA BEEN MADE?
YES, A FULL SURVEY HAS BEEN MADE. HERE IS THE MAP. I FIND THAT CHITTOR IS ALMOST IMPREGNABLE. IT IS BUILT ON A STEEP ROCK.
IMPREGNABLE? BUT IT WAS ONCE CAPTURED BY SULTAN BAHADUR SHAH.
IT WAS DIFFICULT THEN—AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT NOW.
AKBAR MADE FULL PREPARATIONS, AND STARTED OUT WITH HIS ARMY. ON THE WAY—
THE RANA OF MEWAR HAS RETIRED WITH HIS FAMILY TO UDAIPUR!
WHAT! HE FLEES FROM CHITTOR BEFORE WE ARRIVE!
BUT HE HAS LEFT GENERAL JAIMAL IN CHARGE OF CHITTOR WITH EIGHT THOUSAND RAJPUTS.
SO HE LEAVES THEM TO DIE?


NO, MY LORD, THE FORT IS STRONG AND WELL-STOCKED WITH FOOD.
BUT THE COUNTRY AROUND HAS BEEN LAID WASTE SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS GETTING SUPPLIES OF FOOD.
WE ARE WELL PROVIDED. YOU MAY GO. YOUR REPORT IS AS COMPLETE AS IT COULD BE.
THANK YOU, MY LORD.
SO WE KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT. AND WE ARE PREPARED. TOMORROW WE MOVE!
AKBAR MARCHED TO CHITTOR AND ENCAMPED BELOW THE FORT. HIS CAMP EXTENDED FOR OVER TEN MILES.
WE WILL BLAST THE WALL OF THE FORT. START DIGGING THE TUNNELS.

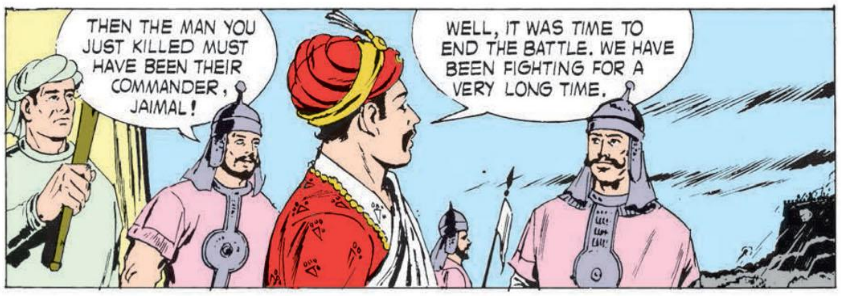

TWO TUNNELS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER LEADING TO THE FORT WERE BURROWED. IT TOOK ONE MONTH TO DO THIS.
BUT AT LAST THE WORK WAS COMPLETED.
MY LORD, THE TUNNELS ARE READY.
WELL DONE!
WE ARE PREPARING TO LIGHT THE FUSES.
THEY MUST EXPLODE AT THE SAME TIME. SEE TO THAT.
ALL RIGHT, READY!
BOOM

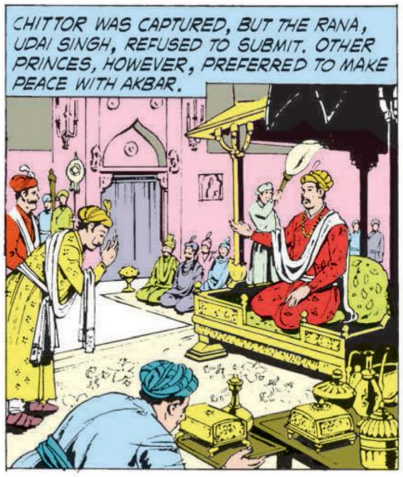

MOVE FORWARD!
INTO THE BREACH!
BUT JUST AS THEY SWIFTLY MOVED IN THE BREACH, THERE WAS A SECOND EXPLOSION.
OH, ALLAH!
HAI, RAM!
THEY'VE BEEN CAUGHT BY THE SECOND EXPLOSION!
TWO HUNDRED SOLDIERS LOST! WE CAN'T USE TUNNELS HERE. LET'S TRY MOVING FORWARD UNDER COVER. BUILD A SABAT!
THE MASONS AND OTHER LABOURERS SET TO WORK TO BUILD THE TEMPORARY STRUCTURE WHICH THE MUGHALS CALLED THE 'SABAT.' IT CONSISTED OF SINUOUS MUD WALLS, WITH A WOODEN ROOF HELD TOGETHER WITH HIDES.

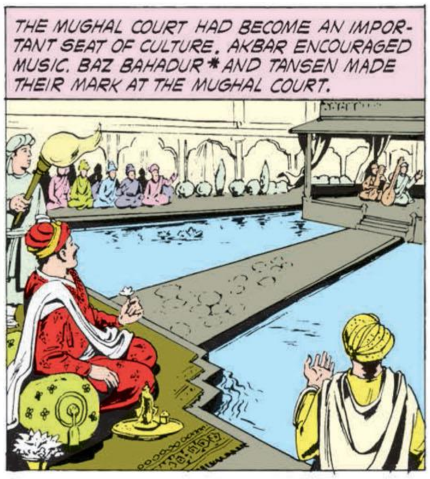

THE SABAT WAS A STEADILY GROWING FORTIFICATION. AS ITS WALLS INCHED FORWARD, THE MUGHAL GUNS, CANNONS AND MEN, COULD ADVANCE UNDER PROTECTION. BUT IT WAS DANGEROUS FOR THE WORKERS IN THE FORWARD AREA. HUNDREDS OF THEM DIED EVERY DAY, VICTIMS OF ARROWS FROM THE CHITTOR FORT.
SHOOT!
SHOOT AT THOSE INTRUDING MUGHALS!
AS THEY MOVED FORWARD TO THE FOOT OF FORTRESS, THE GUNS SNIPED.
BOTH SIDES FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY. BUT AS HE DREW NEARER THE FORT, AKBAR WAS IN A STRONGER POSITION.

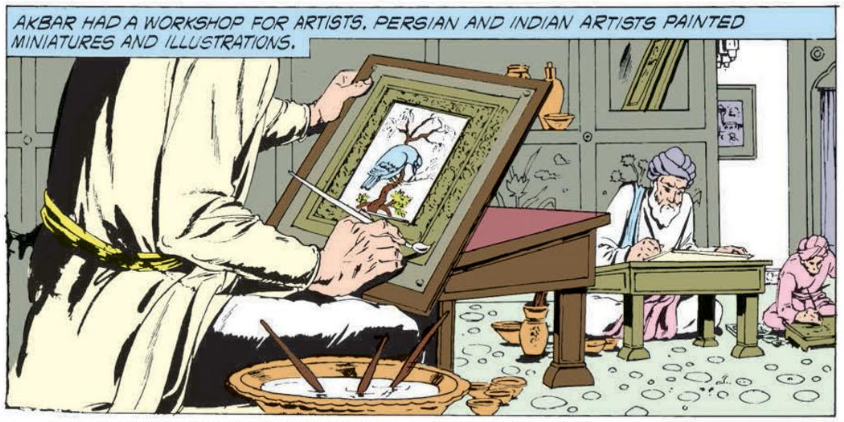

FINALLY, THINGS WERE SO BAD FOR THE ENEMY THAT THE COMMANDER, JAIMAL, HIMSELF CAME TO THE BREACH TO DEFEND IT.
WHO IS THAT MAN?
HE MUST BE SOME RAJPUT PRINCE....
AKBAR TOOK AIM.
THE NEXT MOMENT—
YOU HAVE SHOT HIM DOWN!
ALL WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE. THEN FIRES COULD BE SEEN BURNING AT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE FORT.
WHAT ARE THOSE FIRES?
THE WOMEN ARE PREPARING FOR JAUHAR.* OBVIOUSLY, THEY EXPECT TO LOSE ALL THEIR MEN IN TOMORROW'S BATTLE.

* THE PRACTICE OF WOMEN IMOLATING THEMSELVES RATHER THAN BE TAKEN AS CAPTIVES

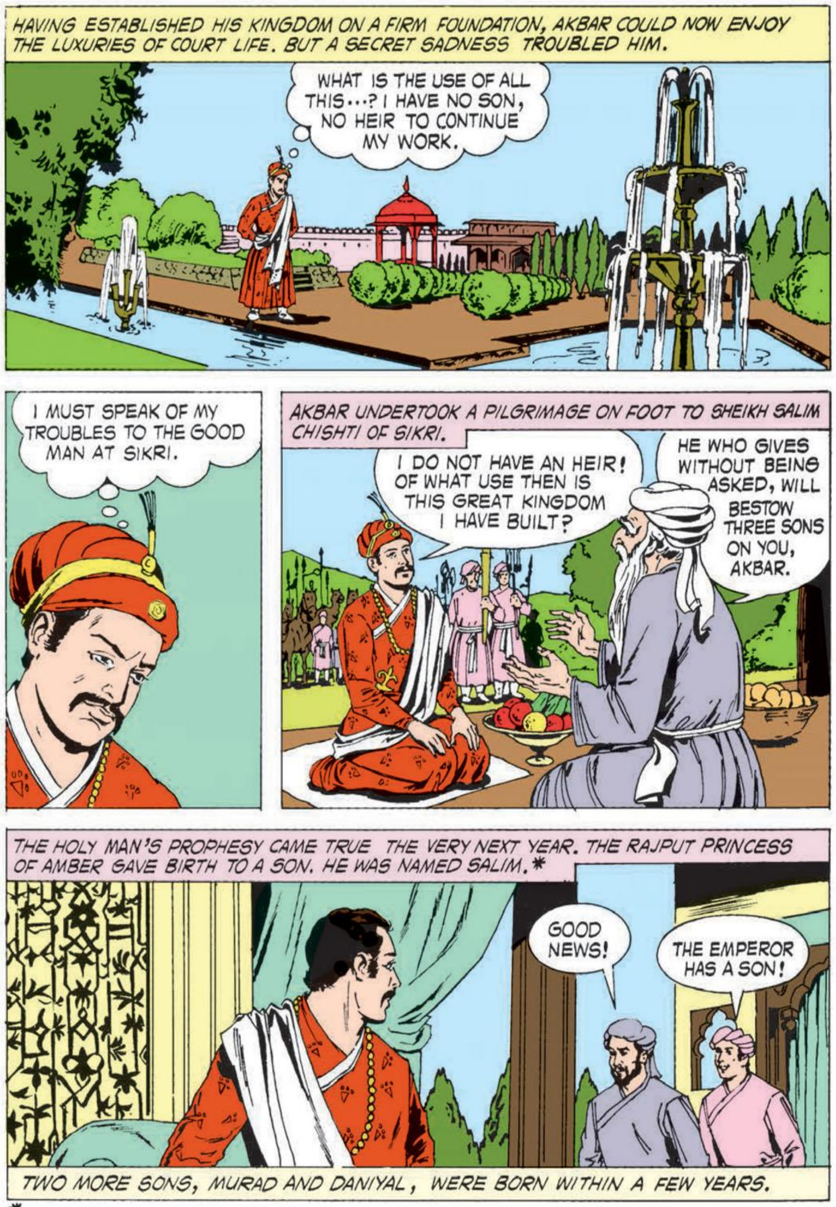

THEN THE MAN YOU JUST KILLED MUST HAVE BEEN THEIR COMMANDER, JAIMAL!
WELL, IT WAS TIME TO END THE BATTLE. WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR A VERY LONG TIME.


CHITTOR WAS CAPTURED, BUT THE RANA, UDAI SINGH, REFUSED TO SUBMIT. OTHER PRINCES, HOWEVER, PREFERRED TO MAKE PEACE WITH AKBAR.


THE MUGHAL COURT HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT SEAT OF CULTURE. AKBAR ENCOURAGED MUSIC. BAZ BAHADUR* AND TANSEN MADE THEIR MARK AT THE MUGHAL COURT.


AKBAR HAD A WORKSHOP FOR ARTISTS. PERSIAN AND INDIAN ARTISTS PAINTED MINIATURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

JOINED AKBAR'S COURT SOME YEARS AFTER HIS DEFEAT AT MALWA


HAVING ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM ON A FIRM FOUNDATION, AKBAR COULD NOW ENJOY THE LUXURIES OF COURT LIFE. BUT A SECRET SADNESS TROUBLED HIM.
WHAT IS THE USE OF ALL THIS...? I HAVE NO SON, NO HEIR TO CONTINUE MY WORK.
I MUST SPEAK OF MY TROUBLES TO THE GOOD MAN AT SIKRI.
AKBAR UNDERTOOK A PILGRIMAGE ON FOOT TO SHEIKH SALIM CHISHTI OF SIKRI.
I DO NOT HAVE AN HEIR! OF WHAT USE THEN IS THIS GREAT KINGDOM I HAVE BUILT?
HE WHO GIVES WITHOUT BEING ASKED, WILL BESTOW THREE SONS ON YOU, AKBAR.
THE HOLY MAN'S PROPHESY CAME TRUE THE VERY NEXT YEAR. THE RAJPUT PRINCESS OF AMBER GAVE BIRTH TO A SON. HE WAS NAMED SALIM.*
GOOD NEWS!
THE EMPEROR HAS A SON!
TWO MORE SONS, MURAD AND DANIYAL, WERE BORN WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

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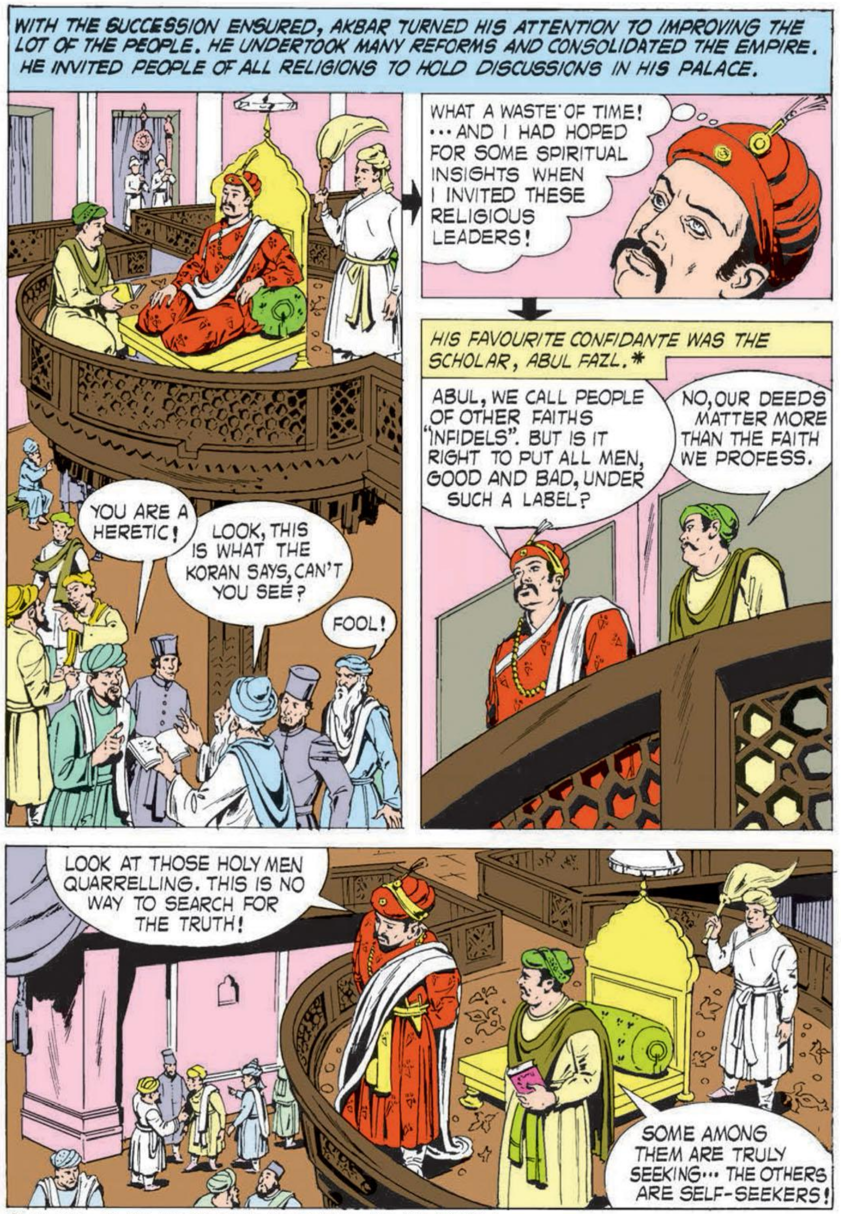
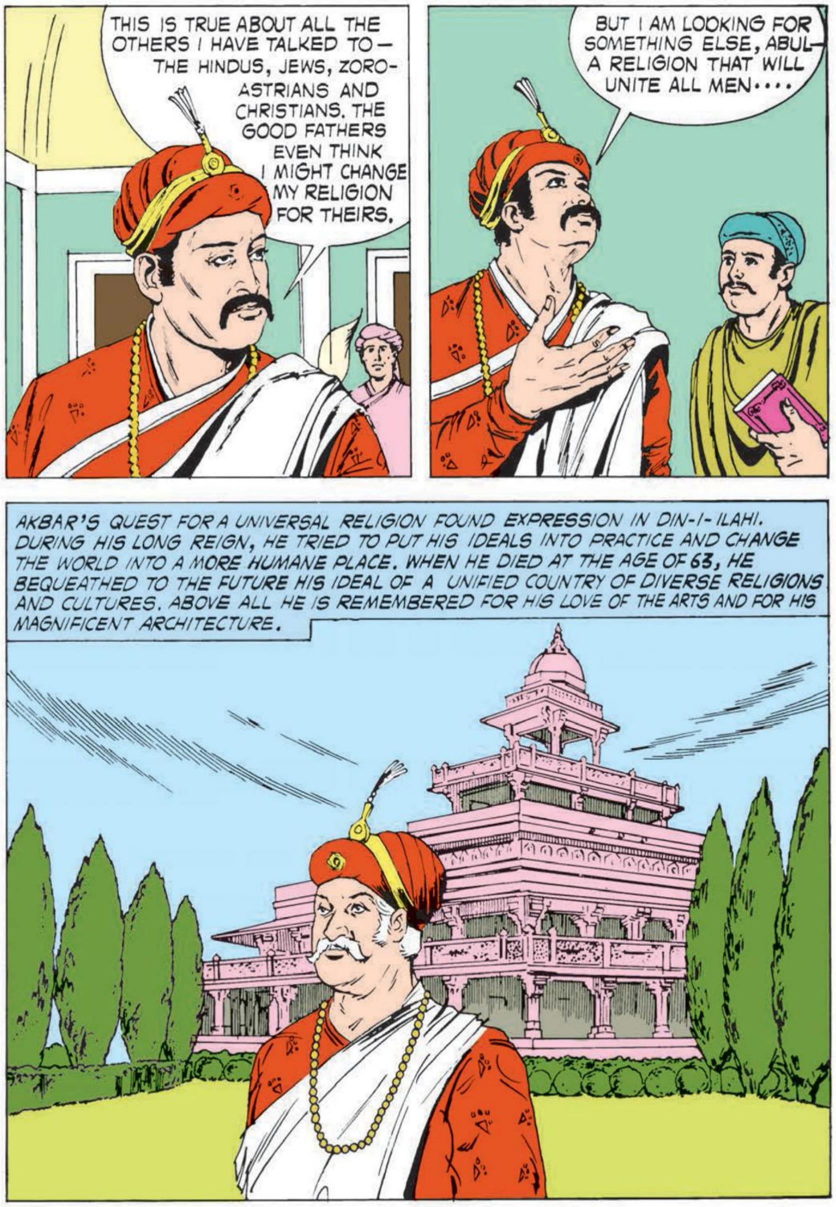
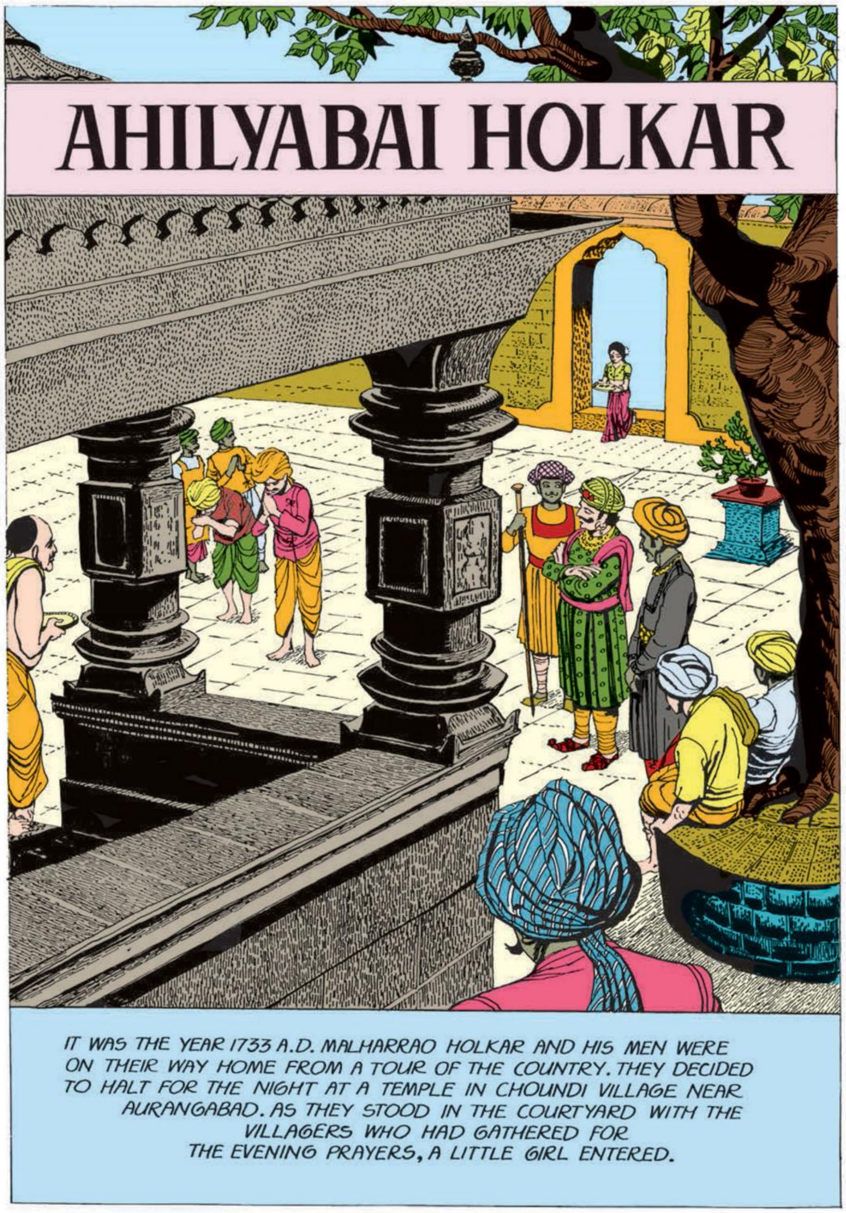
* LATER KNOWN AS THE EMPEROR JAHANGIR


WITH THE SUCCESSION ENSURED, AKBAR TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE PEOPLE. HE UNDERTOOK MANY REFORMS AND CONSOLIDATED THE EMPIRE. HE INVITED PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN HIS PALACE.
YOU ARE A HERETIC!
LOOK, THIS IS WHAT THE KORAN SAYS, CAN'T YOU SEE?
FOOL!
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME! ... AND I HAD HOPED FOR SOME SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS WHEN I INVITED THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS!
HIS FAVOURITE CONFIDANTE WAS THE SCHOLAR, ABUL FAZL.*
ABUL, WE CALL PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS "INFIDELS". BUT IS IT RIGHT TO PUT ALL MEN, GOOD AND BAD, UNDER SUCH A LABEL?
NO, OUR DEEDS MATTER MORE THAN THE FAITH WE PROFESS.
LOOK AT THOSE HOLY MEN QUARRELLING. THIS IS NO WAY TO SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH!
SOME AMONG THEM ARE TRULY SEEKING... THE OTHERS ARE SELF-SEEKERS!

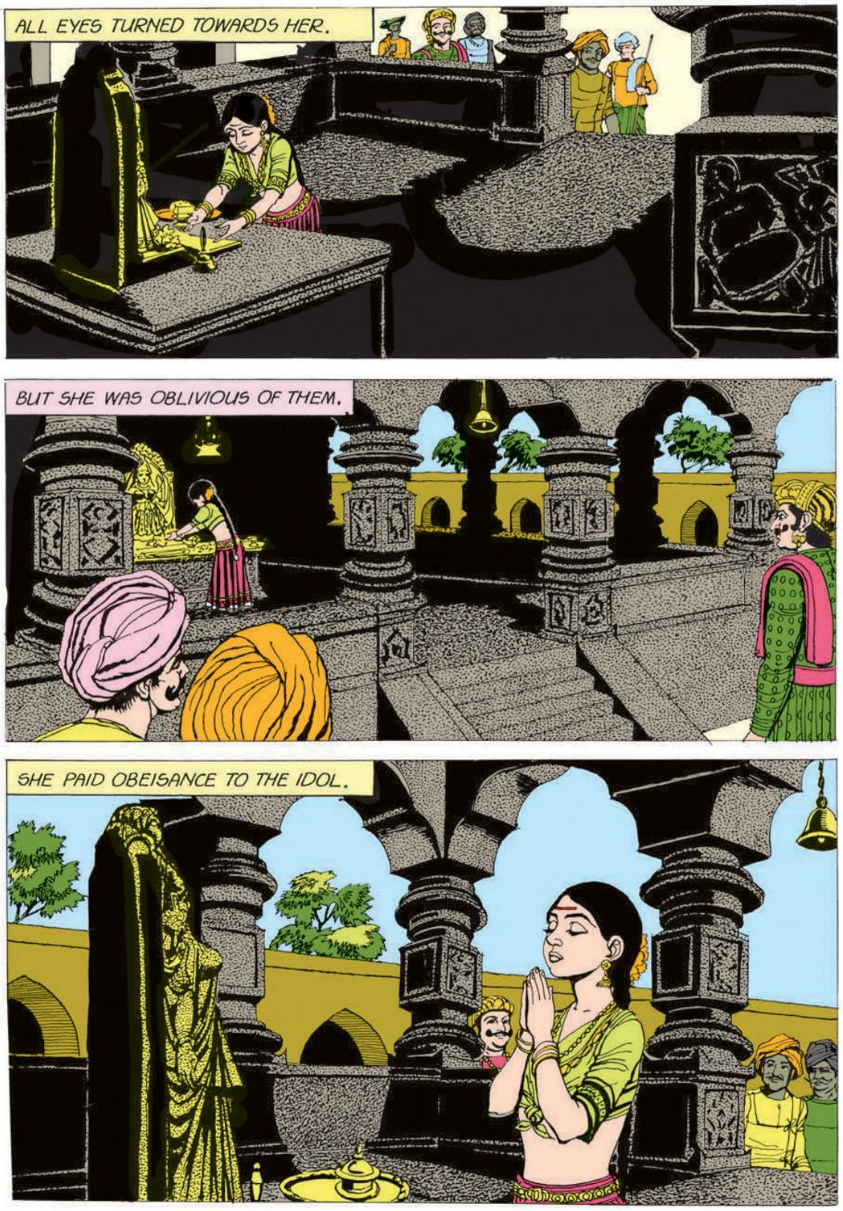
* AUTHOR OF AKBAR'S FAMOUS BIOGRAPHY, THE AKBARNAMA

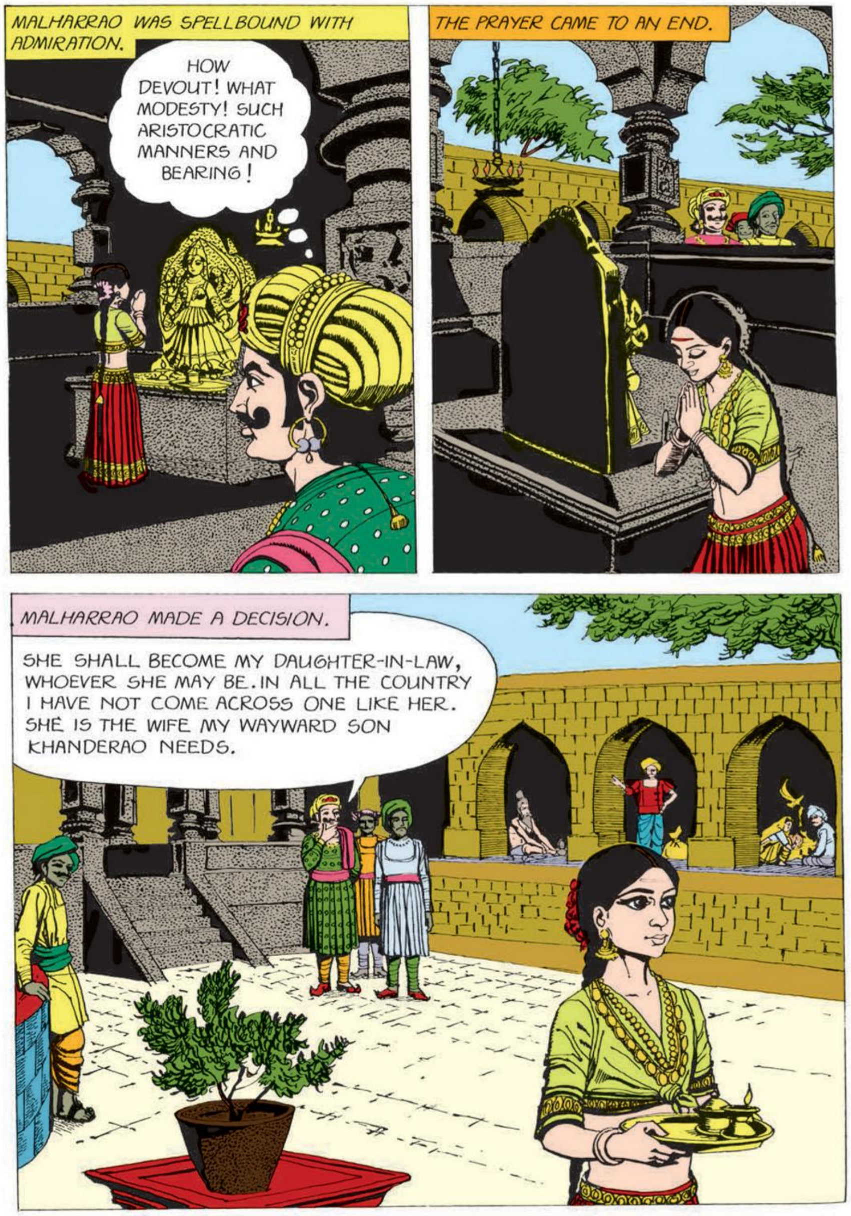

THIS IS TRUE ABOUT ALL THE OTHERS I HAVE TALKED TO — THE HINDUS, JEWS, ZOROASTRIANS AND CHRISTIANS. THE GOOD FATHERS EVEN THINK I MIGHT CHANGE MY RELIGION FOR THEIRS.
BUT I AM LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE, ABUL — A RELIGION THAT WILL UNITE ALL MEN....
AKBAR'S QUEST FOR A UNIVERSAL RELIGION FOUND EXPRESSION IN DIN-I-ILAHI. DURING HIS LONG REIGN, HE TRIED TO PUT HIS IDEALS INTO PRACTICE AND CHANGE THE WORLD INTO A MORE HUMANE PLACE. WHEN HE DIED AT THE AGE OF 63, HE BEQUEATHED TO THE FUTURE HIS IDEAL OF A UNIFIED COUNTRY OF DIVERSE RELIGIONS AND CULTURES. ABOVE ALL HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS LOVE OF THE ARTS AND FOR HIS MAGNIFICENT ARCHITECTURE.

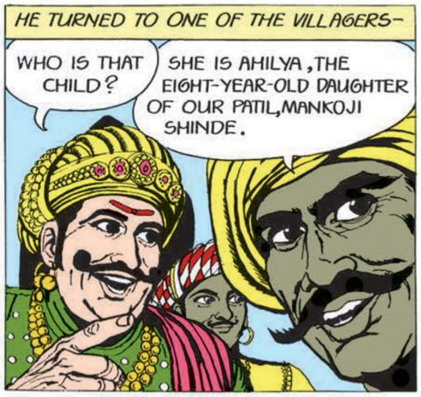
# AHILYABAI HOLKAR

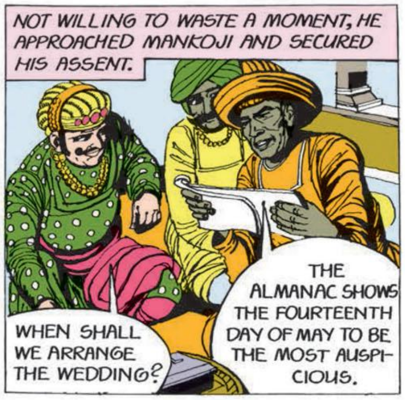


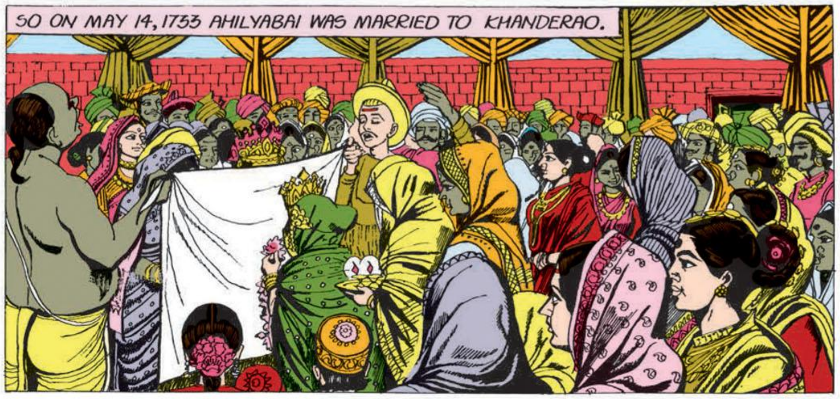
IT WAS THE YEAR 1733 A.D. MALHARRAO HOLKAR AND HIS MEN WERE ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM A TOUR OF THE COUNTRY. THEY DECIDED TO HALT FOR THE NIGHT AT A TEMPLE IN CHOUNDI VILLAGE NEAR AURANGABAD. AS THEY STOOD IN THE COURTYARD WITH THE VILLAGERS WHO HAD GATHERED FOR THE EVENING PRAYERS, A LITTLE GIRL ENTERED.

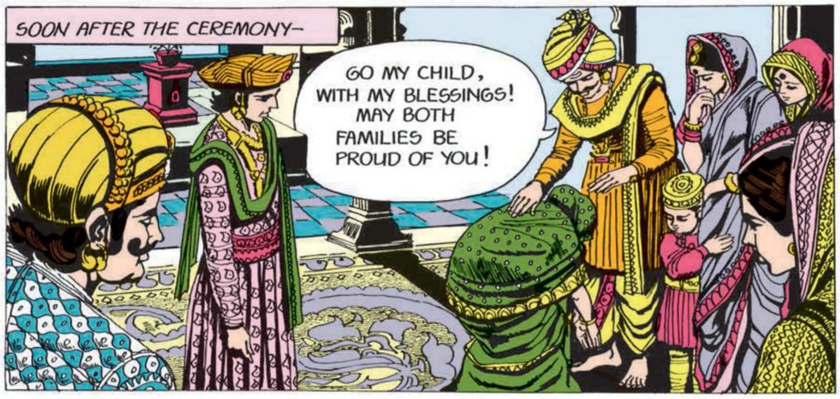

ALL EYES TURNED TOWARDS HER.
BUT SHE WAS OBLIVIOUS OF THEM.
SHE PAID OBEISANCE TO THE IDOL.

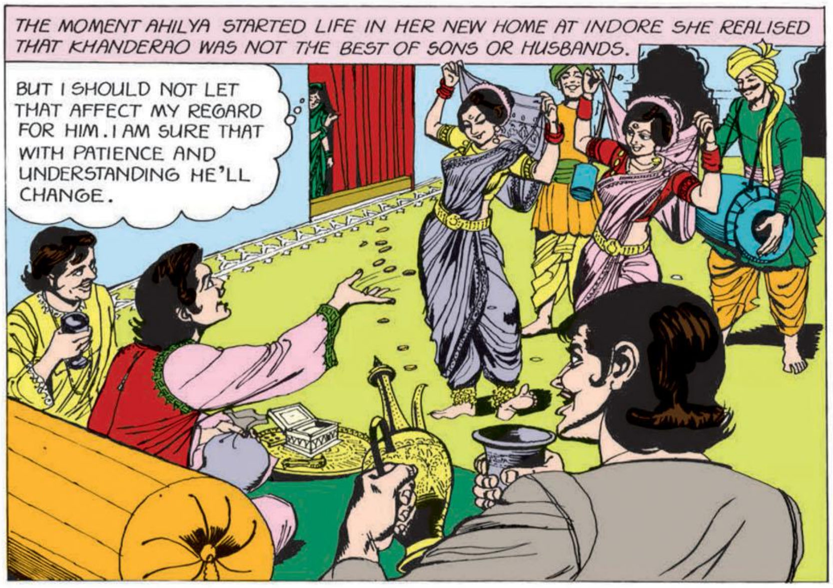

MALHARRAO WAS SPELLBOUND WITH ADMIRATION.
HOW DEVOUT! WHAT MODESTY! SUCH ARISTOCRATIC MANNERS AND BEARING!
THE PRAYER CAME TO AN END.
MALHARRAO MADE A DECISION.
SHE SHALL BECOME MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, WHOEVER SHE MAY BE. IN ALL THE COUNTRY I HAVE NOT COME ACROSS ONE LIKE HER. SHE IS THE WIFE MY WAYWARD SON KHANDERAO NEEDS.

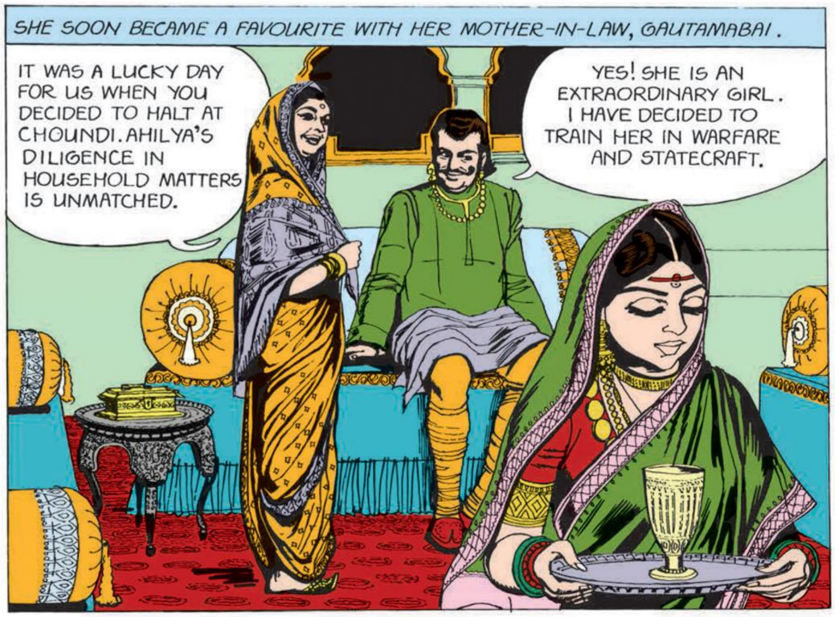

HE TURNED TO ONE OF THE VILLAGERS–
WHO IS THAT CHILD?
SHE IS AHILYA, THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER OF OUR PATIL, MANKOJI SHINDE.

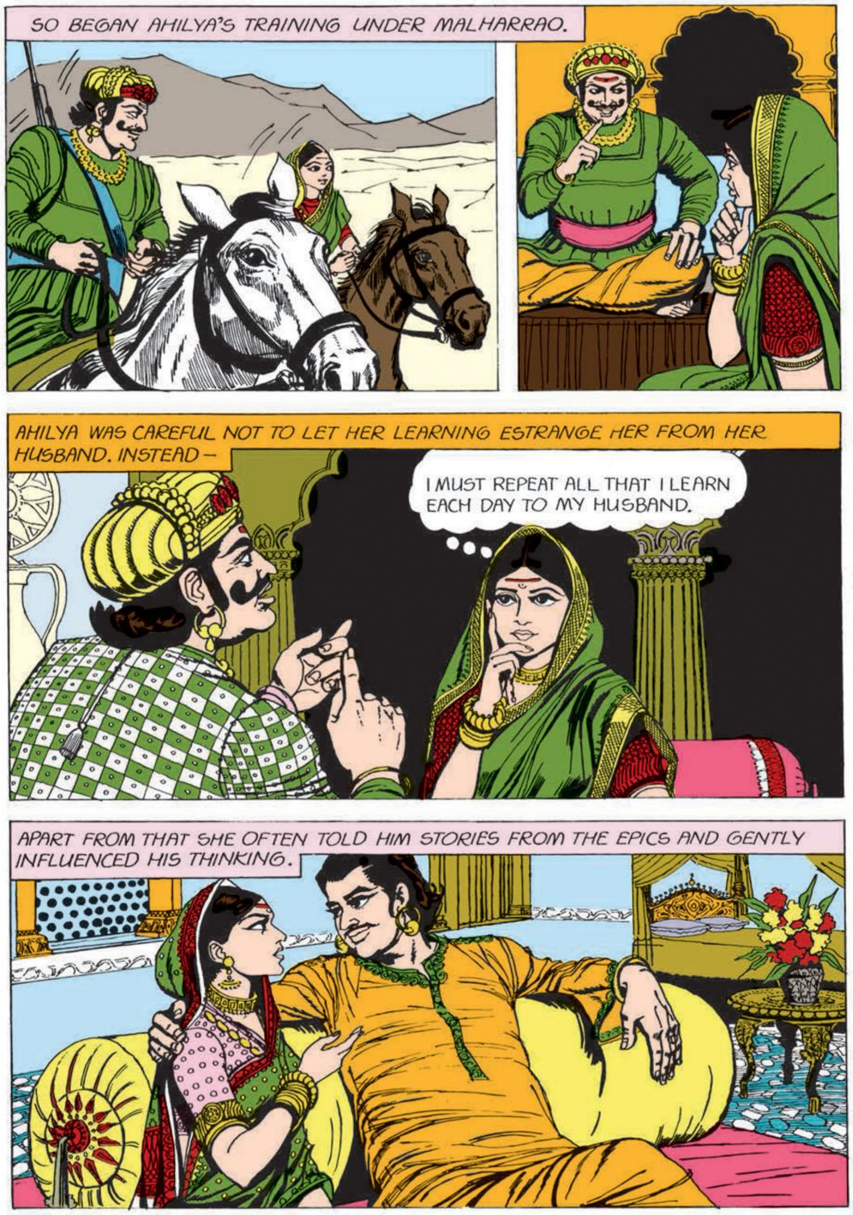

NOT WILLING TO WASTE A MOMENT, HE APPROACHED MANKOJI AND SECURED HIS ASSENT.
WHEN SHALL WE ARRANGE THE WEDDING?
THE ALMANAC SHOWS THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF MAY TO BE THE MOST AUSPICIOUS.

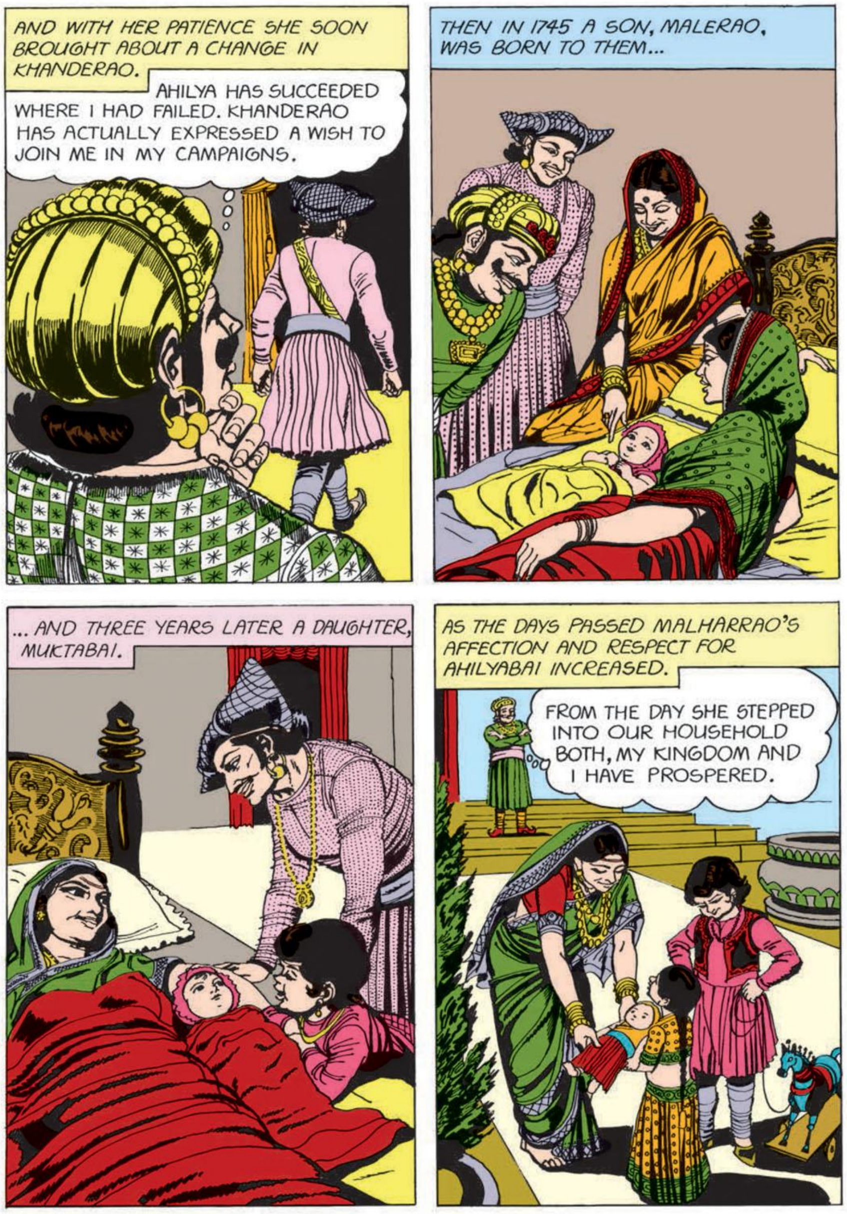

SO ON MAY 14, 1733 AHILYABAI WAS MARRIED TO KHANDERAO.

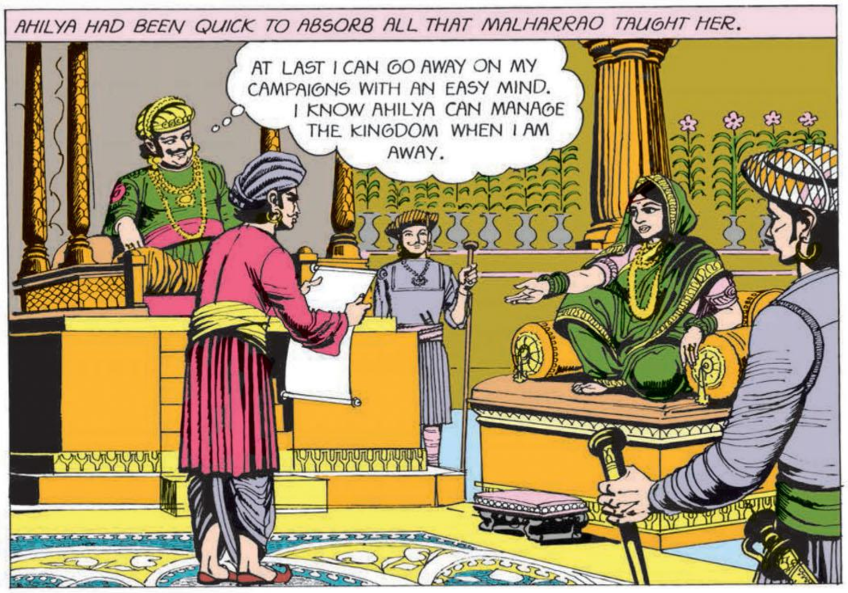

SOON AFTER THE CEREMONY–
GO MY CHILD, WITH MY BLESSINGS! MAY BOTH FAMILIES BE PROUD OF YOU!

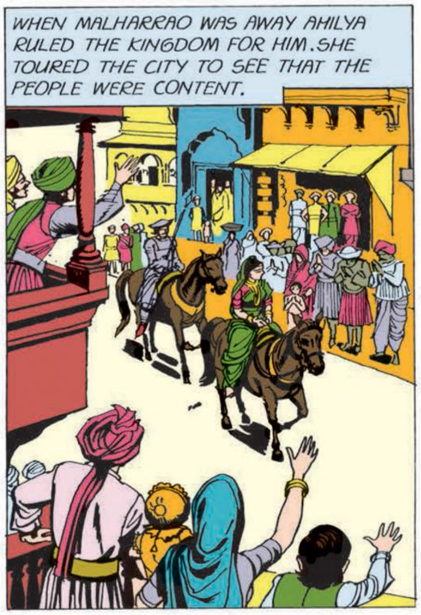

THE MOMENT AHILYA STARTED LIFE IN HER NEW HOME AT INDORE SHE REALISED THAT KHANDERAO WAS NOT THE BEST OF SONS OR HUSBANDS.
BUT I SHOULD NOT LET THAT AFFECT MY REGARD FOR HIM. I AM SURE THAT WITH PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING HE'LL CHANGE.

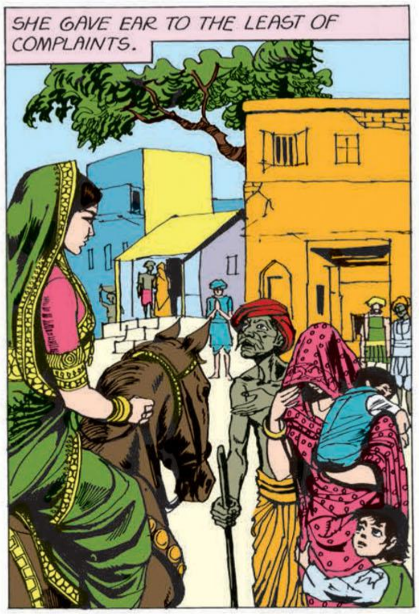

SHE SOON BECAME A FAVOURITE WITH HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, GAUTAMABAI.
IT WAS A LUCKY DAY FOR US WHEN YOU DECIDED TO HALT AT CHOUNDI. AHILYA'S DILIGENCE IN HOUSEHOLD MATTERS IS UNMATCHED.
YES! SHE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY GIRL. I HAVE DECIDED TO TRAIN HER IN WARFARE AND STATECRAFT.

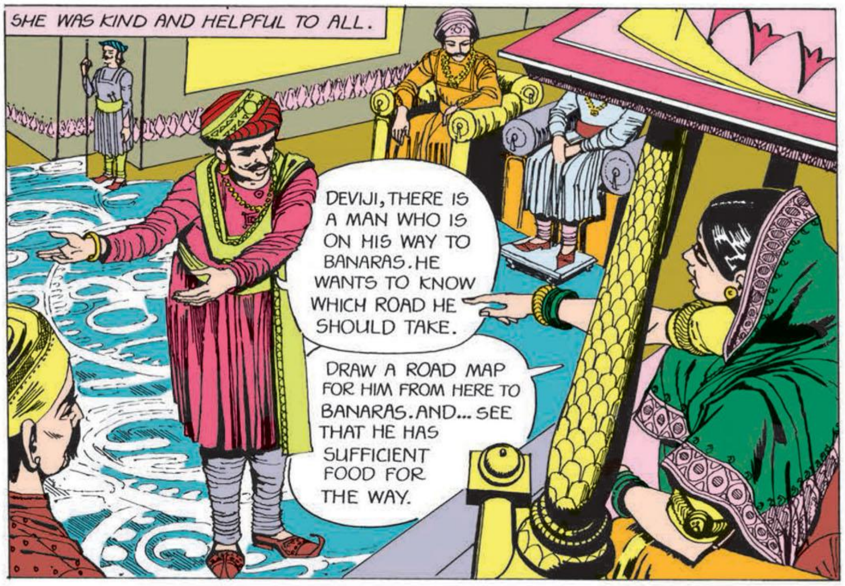

SO BEGAN AHILYA'S TRAINING UNDER MALHARRAO.
AHILYA WAS CAREFUL NOT TO LET HER LEARNING ESTRANGE HER FROM HER HUSBAND. INSTEAD –
I MUST REPEAT ALL THAT I LEARN EACH DAY TO MY HUSBAND.
APART FROM THAT SHE OFTEN TOLD HIM STORIES FROM THE EPICS AND GENTLY INFLUENCED HIS THINKING.

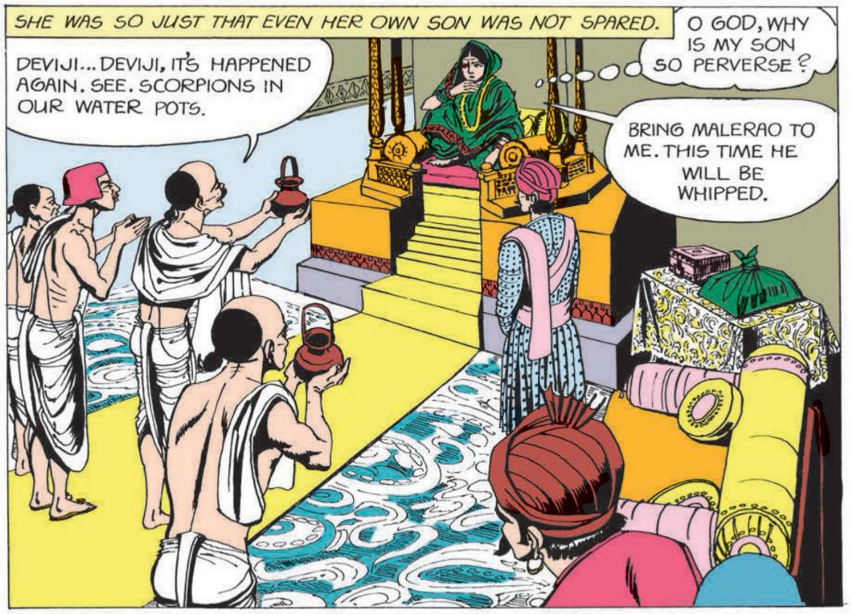

AND WITH HER PATIENCE SHE SOON BROUGHT ABOUT A CHANGE IN KHANDERAO.
AHILYA HAS SUCCEEDED WHERE I HAD FAILED. KHANDERAO HAS ACTUALLY EXPRESSED A WISH TO JOIN ME IN MY CAMPAIGNS.
THEN IN 1745 A SON, MALERAO, WAS BORN TO THEM...
... AND THREE YEARS LATER A DAUGHTER, MUKTABAI.
AS THE DAYS PASSED MALHARRAO'S AFFECTION AND RESPECT FOR AHILYABAI INCREASED.
FROM THE DAY SHE STEPPED INTO OUR HOUSEHOLD BOTH, MY KINGDOM AND I HAVE PROSPERED.


AHILYA HAD BEEN QUICK TO ABSORB ALL THAT MALHARRAO TAUGHT HER.
AT LAST I CAN GO AWAY ON MY CAMPAIGNS WITH AN EASY MIND. I KNOW AHILYA CAN MANAGE THE KINGDOM WHEN I AM AWAY.

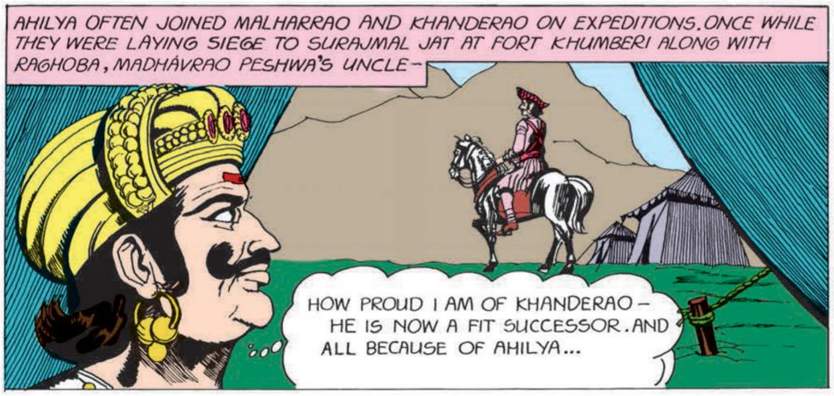

WHEN MALHARRAO WAS AWAY AHILYA RULED THE KINGDOM FOR HIM. SHE TOURED THE CITY TO SEE THAT THE PEOPLE WERE CONTENT.


SHE GAVE EAR TO THE LEAST OF COMPLAINTS.

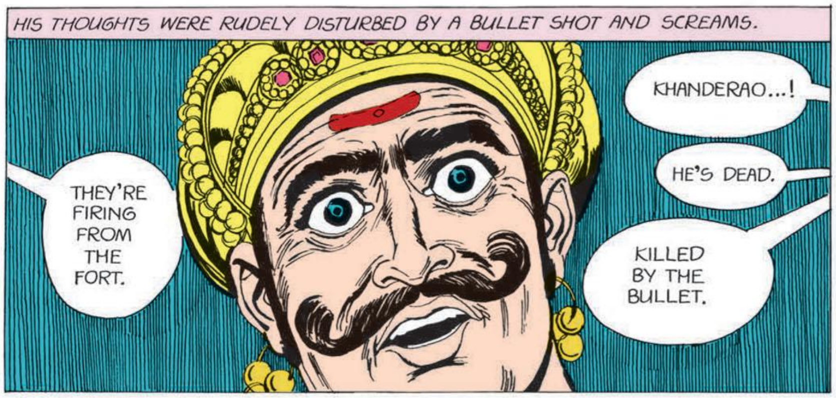

SHE WAS KIND AND HELPFUL TO ALL.
DEVIJI, THERE IS A MAN WHO IS ON HIS WAY TO BANARAS. HE WANTS TO KNOW WHICH ROAD HE SHOULD TAKE.
DRAW A ROAD MAP FOR HIM FROM HERE TO BANARAS. AND... SEE THAT HE HAS SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR THE WAY.


SHE WAS SO JUST THAT EVEN HER OWN SON WAS NOT SPARED.
DEVIJI... DEVIJI, IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN. SEE. SCORPIONS IN OUR WATER POTS.
O GOD, WHY IS MY SON SO PERVERSE?
BRING MALERAO TO ME. THIS TIME HE WILL BE WHIPPED.

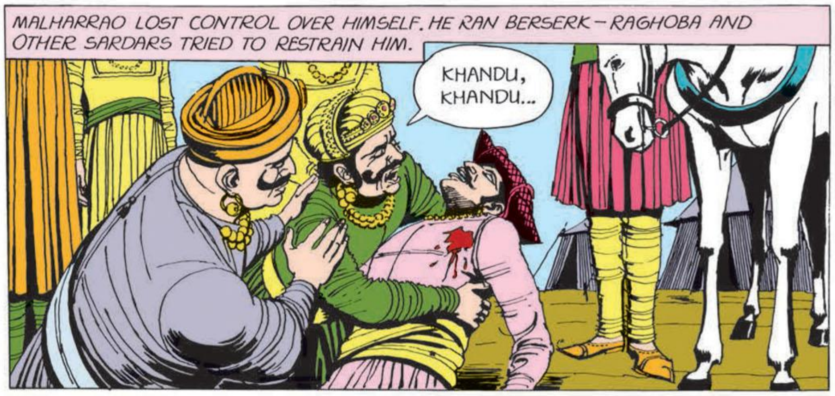
AHILYA OFTEN JOINED MALHARRAO AND KHANDERAO ON EXPEDITIONS. ONCE WHILE THEY WERE LAYING SIEGE TO SURAJMAL JAT AT FORT KHUMBERI ALONG WITH RAGHOBA, MADHAVRAO PESHWA'S UNCLE–

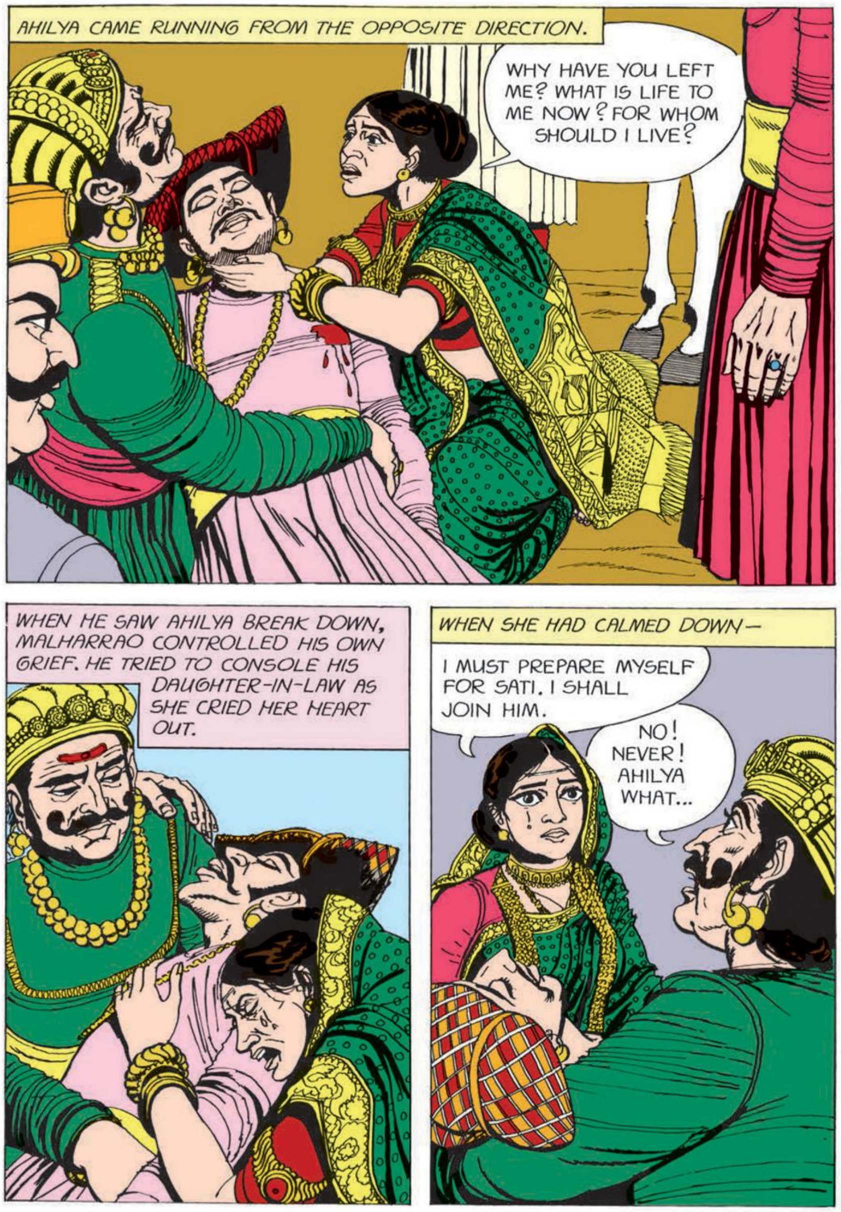

HOW PROUD I AM OF KHANDERAO – HE IS NOW A FIT SUCCESSOR. AND ALL BECAUSE OF AHILYA...

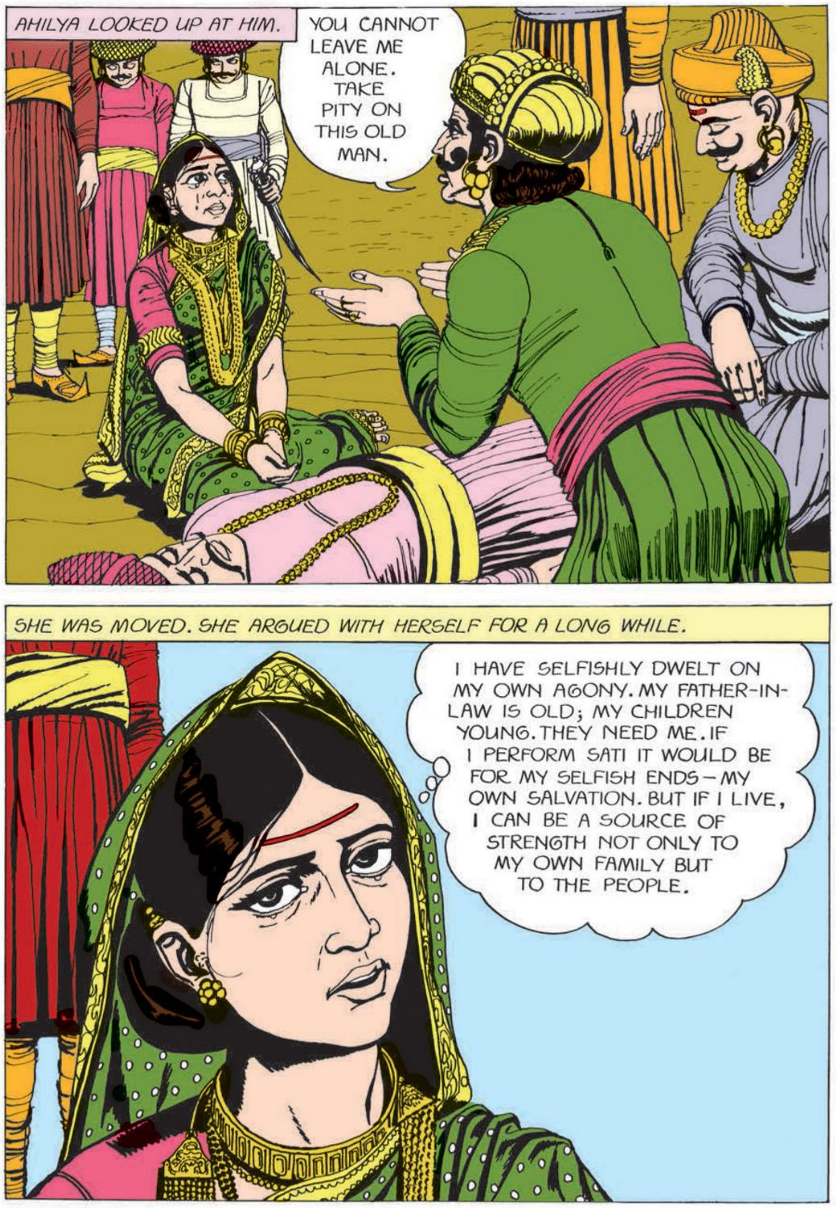
HIS THOUGHTS WERE RUDELY DISTURBED BY A BULLET SHOT AND SCREAMS.

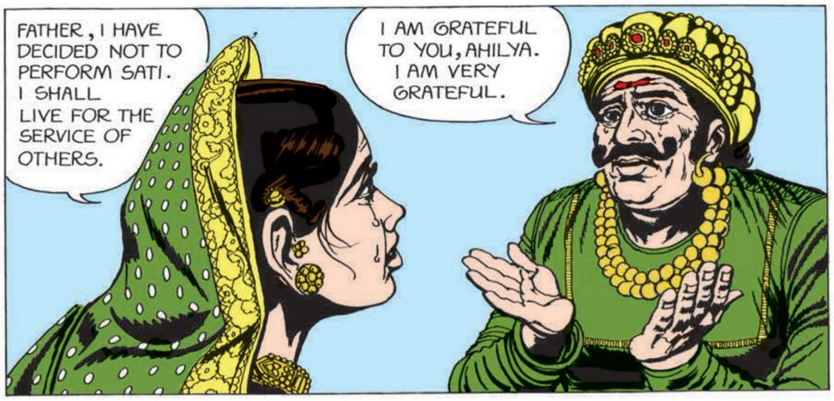

KHANDERAO...!
THEY'RE FIRING FROM THE FORT.
HE'S DEAD.
KILLED BY THE BULLET.

MALHARRAO LOST CONTROL OVER HIMSELF. HE RAN BERSERK – RAGHOBA AND OTHER SARDARS TRIED TO RESTRAIN HIM.

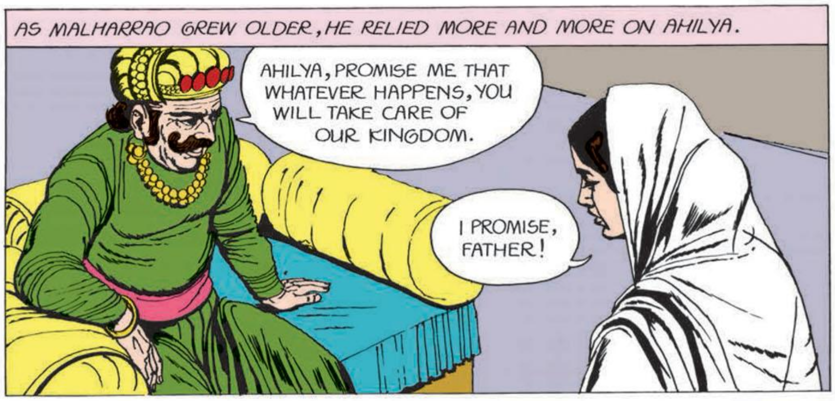

KHANDU, KHANDU...


AHILYA CAME RUNNING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
WHY HAVE YOU LEFT ME? WHAT IS LIFE TO ME NOW? FOR WHOM SHOULD I LIVE?
WHEN HE SAW AHILYA BREAK DOWN, MALHARRAO CONTROLLED HIS OWN GRIEF. HE TRIED TO CONSOLE HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AS SHE CRIED HER HEART OUT.
WHEN SHE HAD CALMED DOWN —
I MUST PREPARE MYSELF FOR SATI. I SHALL JOIN HIM.
NO! NEVER! AHILYA WHAT...

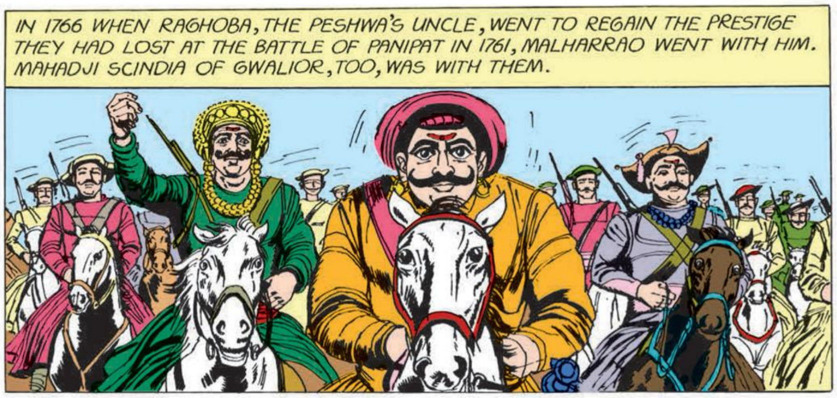

AHILYA LOOKED UP AT HIM.
YOU CANNOT LEAVE ME ALONE. TAKE PITY ON THIS OLD MAN.
SHE WAS MOVED. SHE ARGUED WITH HERSELF FOR A LONG WHILE.
I HAVE SELFISHLY DWELT ON MY OWN AGONY. MY FATHER-IN-LAW IS OLD; MY CHILDREN YOUNG. THEY NEED ME. IF I PERFORM SATI IT WOULD BE FOR MY SELFISH ENDS – MY OWN SALVATION. BUT IF I LIVE, I CAN BE A SOURCE OF STRENGTH NOT ONLY TO MY OWN FAMILY BUT TO THE PEOPLE.

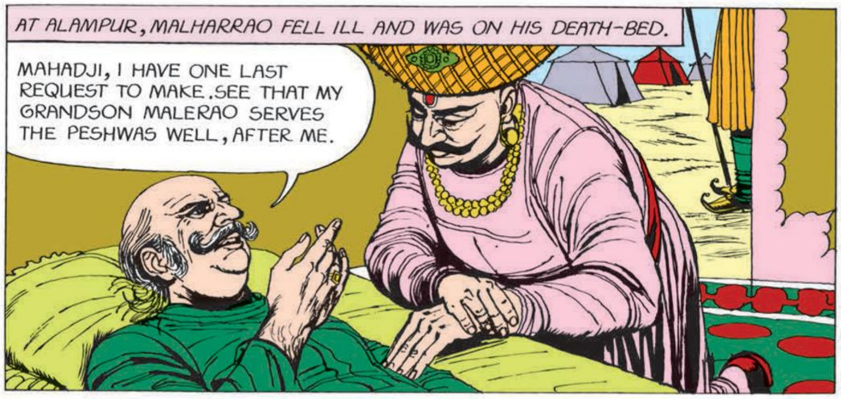

FATHER, I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PERFORM SATI. I SHALL LIVE FOR THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.
I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU, AHILYA. I AM VERY GRATEFUL.

AS MALHARRAO GREW OLDER, HE RELIED MORE AND MORE ON AHILYA.


AHILYA, PROMISE ME THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF OUR KINGDOM.
I PROMISE, FATHER!

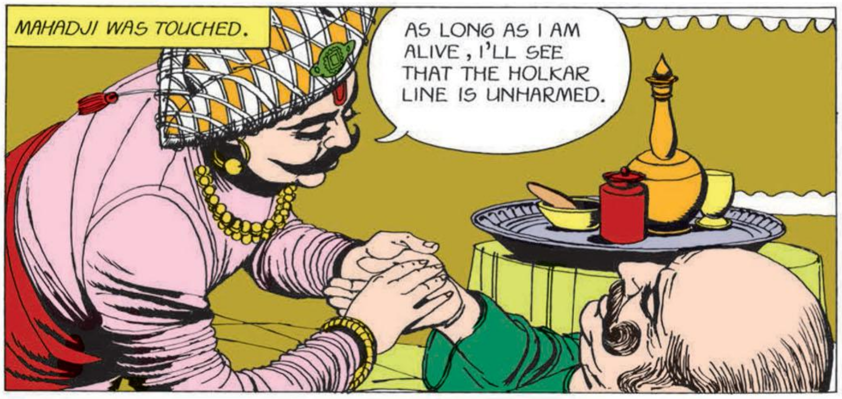
IN 1766 WHEN RAGHOBA, THE PESHWA'S UNCLE, WENT TO REGAIN THE PRESTIGE THEY HAD LOST AT THE BATTLE OF PANIPAT IN 1761, MALHARRAO WENT WITH HIM. MAHADJI SCINDIA OF GWALIOR, TOO, WAS WITH THEM.





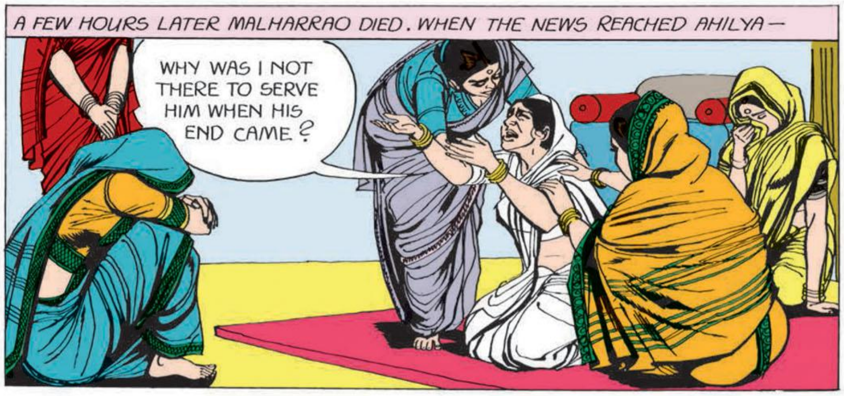
AT ALAMPUR, MALHARRAO FELL ILL AND WAS ON HIS DEATH-BED.

MAHADJI, I HAVE ONE LAST REQUEST TO MAKE. SEE THAT MY GRANDSON MALERAO SERVES THE PESHWAS WELL, AFTER ME.



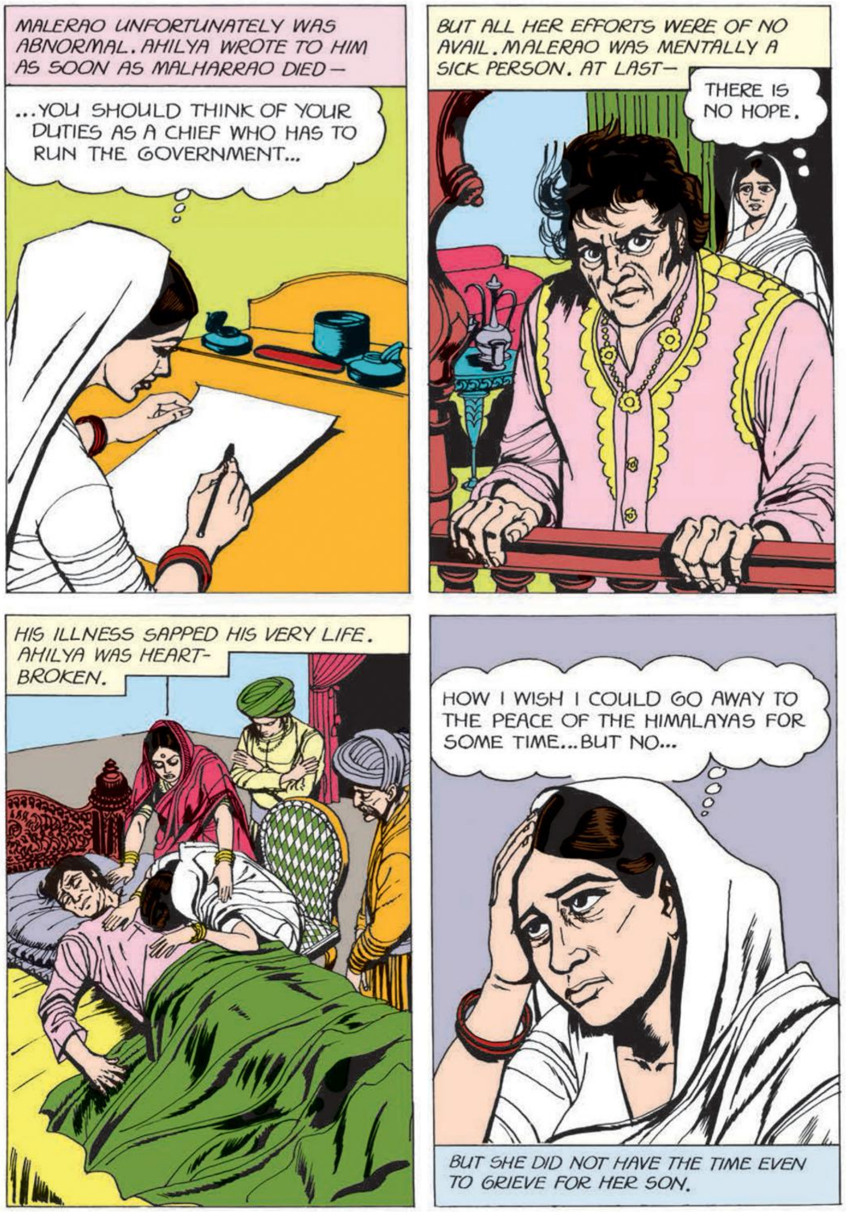
MAHADJI WAS TOUCHED.

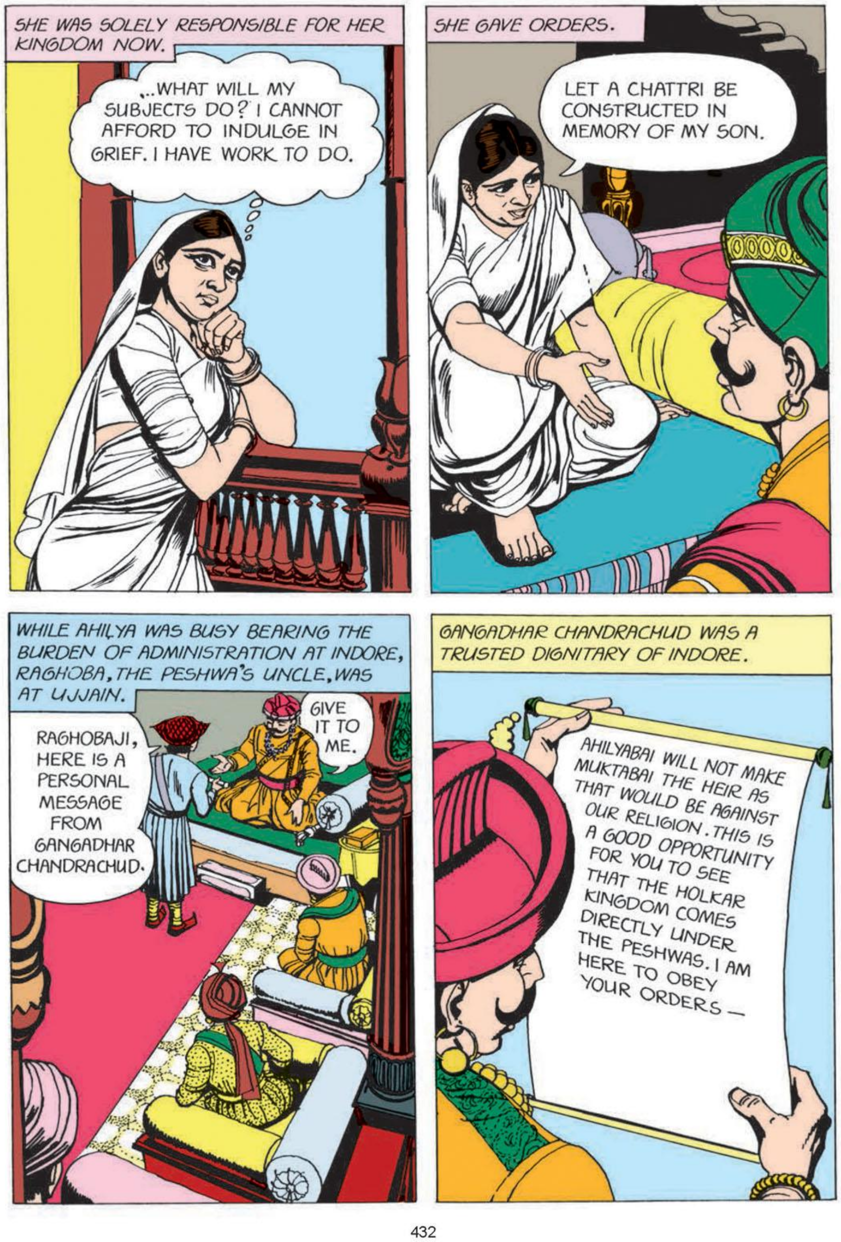
AS LONG AS I AM ALIVE, I'LL SEE THAT THE HOLKAR LINE IS UNHARMED.

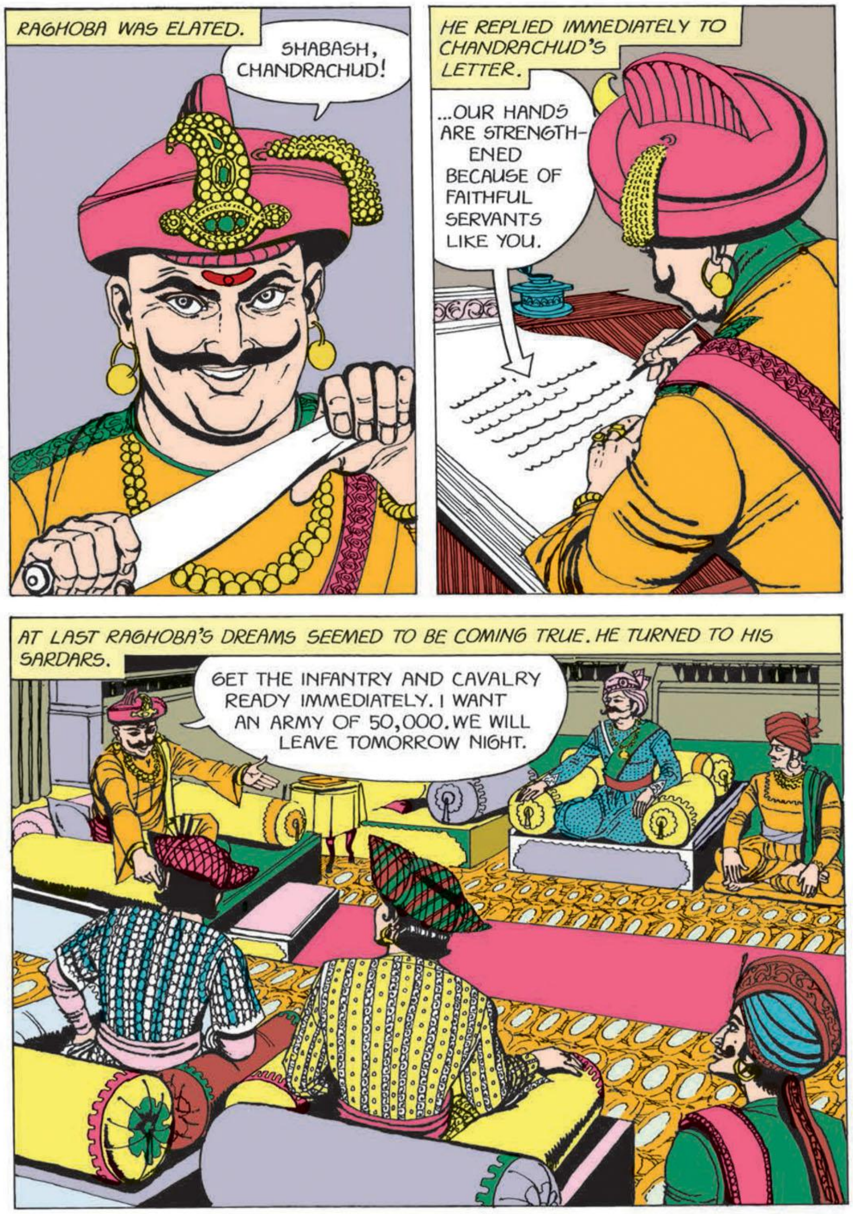


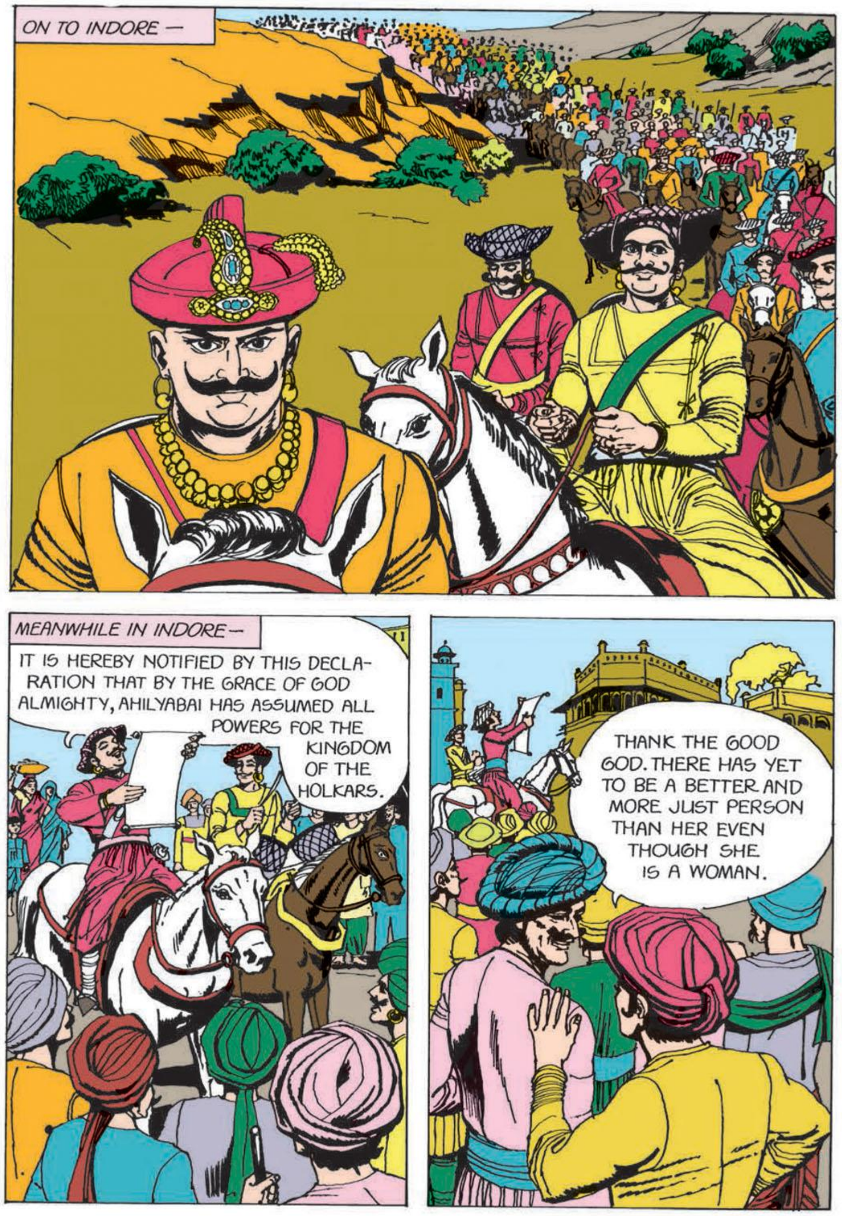
A FEW HOURS LATER MALHARRAO DIED. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED AHILYA—

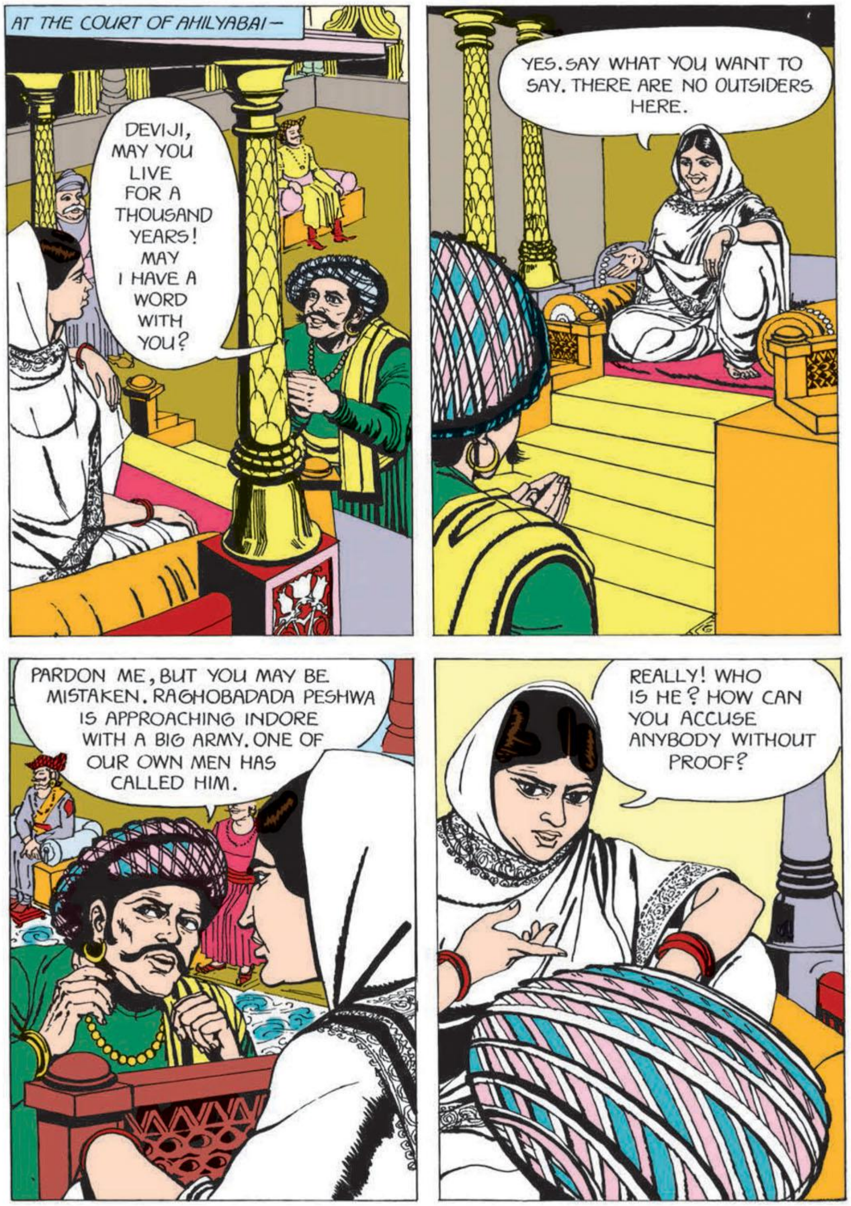
WHY WAS I NOT THERE TO SERVE HIM WHEN HIS END CAME?

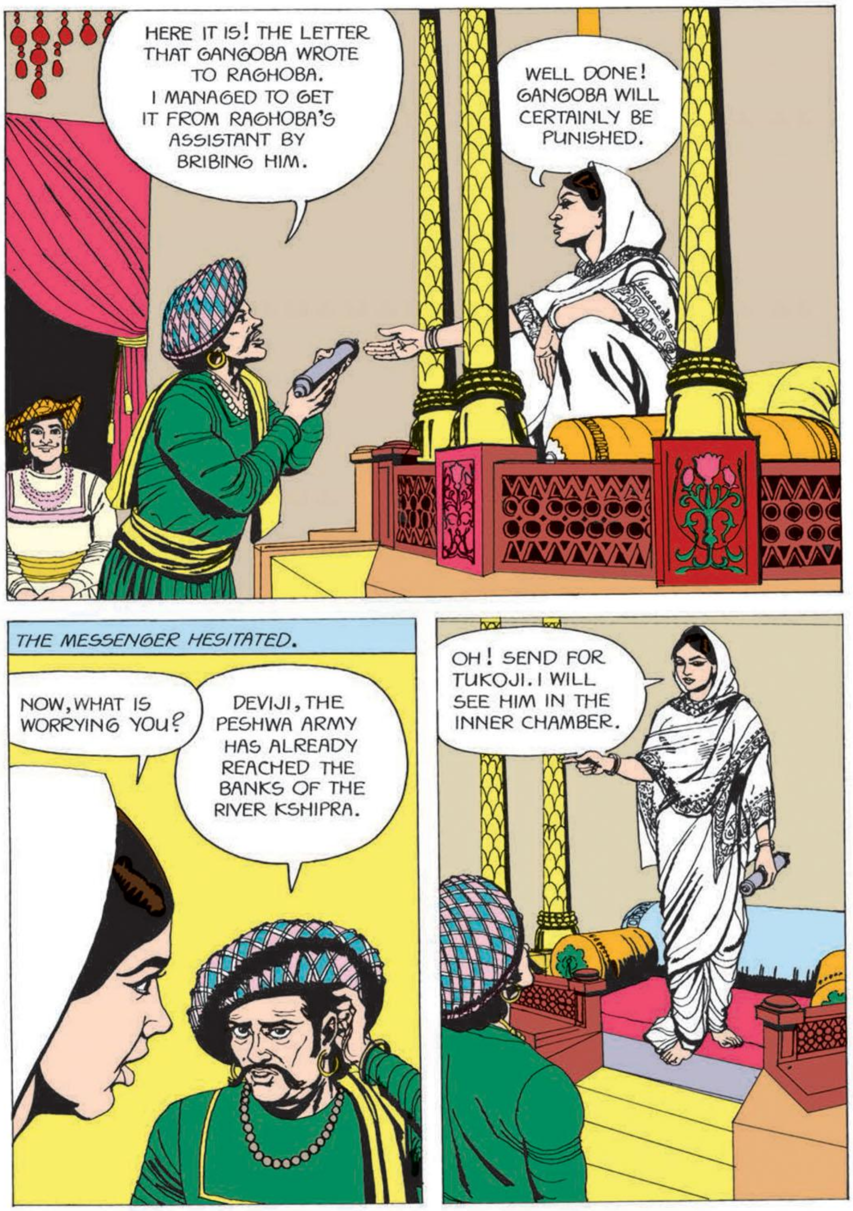

MALERAO UNFORTUNATELY WAS ABNORMAL. AHILYA WROTE TO HIM AS SOON AS MALHARRAO DIED—
...YOU SHOULD THINK OF YOUR DUTIES AS A CHIEF WHO HAS TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT...
BUT ALL HER EFFORTS WERE OF NO AVAIL. MALERAO WAS MENTALLY A SICK PERSON. AT LAST—
THERE IS NO HOPE.
HIS ILLNESS SAPPED HIS VERY LIFE. AHILYA WAS HEART-BROKEN.
HOW I WISH I COULD GO AWAY TO THE PEACE OF THE HIMALAYAS FOR SOME TIME...BUT NO...
BUT SHE DID NOT HAVE THE TIME EVEN TO GRIEVE FOR HER SON.

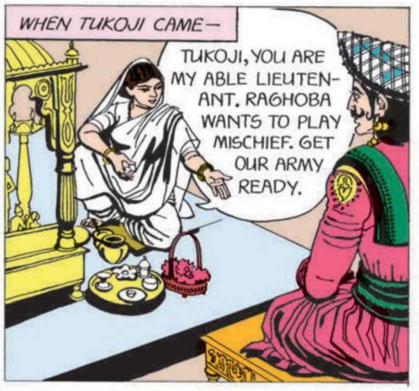

SHE WAS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR HER KINGDOM NOW.
...WHAT WILL MY SUBJECTS DO? I CANNOT AFFORD TO INDULGE IN GRIEF. I HAVE WORK TO DO.
SHE GAVE ORDERS.
LET A CHATTRI BE CONSTRUCTED IN MEMORY OF MY SON.
WHILE AHILYA WAS BUSY BEARING THE BURDEN OF ADMINISTRATION AT INDORE, RAGHOBA, THE PESHWA'S UNCLE, WAS AT UJJAIN.
RAGHOBAJI, HERE IS A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM GANGADHAR CHANDRACHUD.
GIVE IT TO ME.
GANGADHAR CHANDRACHUD WAS A TRUSTED DIGNITARY OF INDORE.
AHILYABAI WILL NOT MAKE MUKTABAI THE HEIR AS THAT WOULD BE AGAINST OUR RELIGION. THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO SEE THAT THE HOLKAR KINGDOM COMES DIRECTLY UNDER THE PESHWAS. I AM HERE TO OBEY YOUR ORDERS —

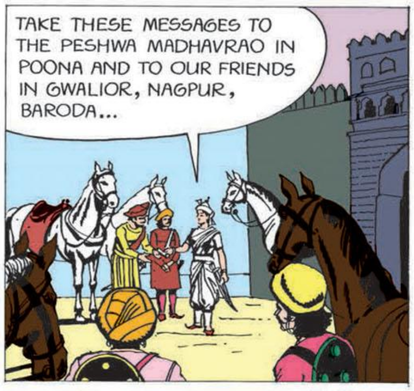

RAGHOBA WAS ELATED.
SHABASH, CHANDRACHUD!
HE REPLIED IMMEDIATELY TO CHANDRACHUD'S LETTER.
...OUR HANDS ARE STRENGTHENED BECAUSE OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS LIKE YOU.
AT LAST RAGHOBA'S DREAMS SEEMED TO BE COMING TRUE. HE TURNED TO HIS SARDARS.
GET THE INFANTRY AND CAVALRY READY IMMEDIATELY. I WANT AN ARMY OF 50,000. WE WILL LEAVE TOMORROW NIGHT.

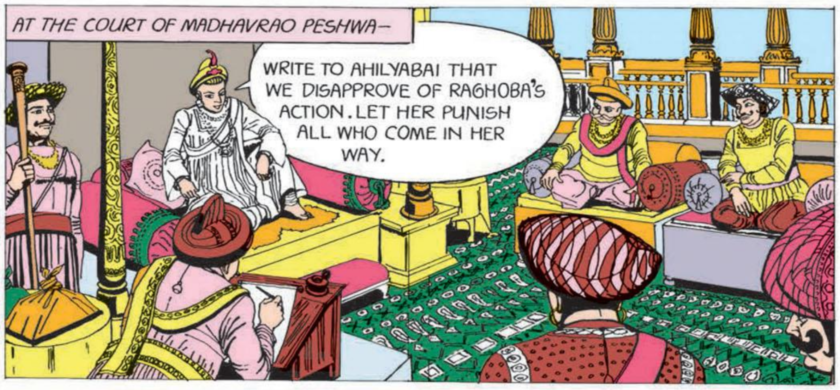

ON TO INDORE —
MEANWHILE IN INDORE —
IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED BY THIS DECLARATION THAT BY THE GRACE OF GOD ALMIGHTY, AHILYABAI HAS ASSUMED ALL POWERS FOR THE KINGDOM OF THE HOLKARS.
THANK THE GOOD GOD. THERE HAS YET TO BE A BETTER AND MORE JUST PERSON THAN HER EVEN THOUGH SHE IS A WOMAN.

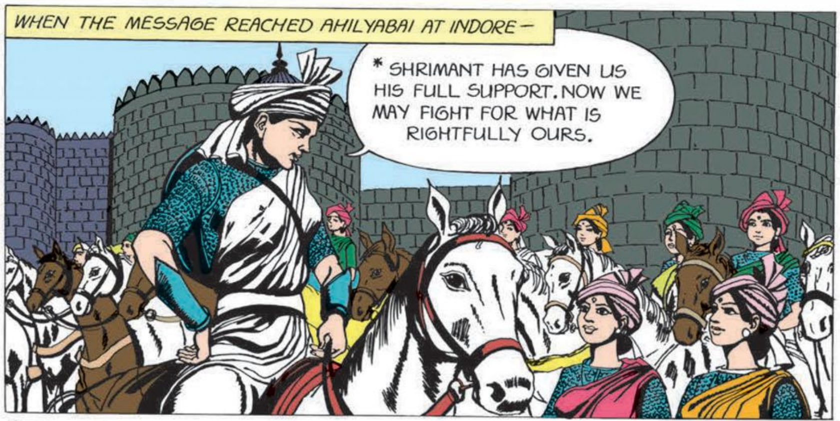

AT THE COURT OF AHILYABAI—
DEVIJI, MAY YOU LIVE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS! MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
YES. SAY WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY. THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS HERE.
PARDON ME, BUT YOU MAY BE MISTAKEN. RAGHOBADADA PESHWA IS APPROACHING INDORE WITH A BIG ARMY. ONE OF OUR OWN MEN HAS CALLED HIM.
REALLY! WHO IS HE? HOW CAN YOU ACCUSE ANYBODY WITHOUT PROOF?


HERE IT IS! THE LETTER THAT GANGOBA WROTE TO RAGHOBA. I MANAGED TO GET IT FROM RAGHOBA'S ASSISTANT BY BRIBING HIM.
WELL DONE! GANGOBA WILL CERTAINLY BE PUNISHED.
THE MESSENGER HESITATED.
NOW, WHAT IS WORRYING YOU?
DEVIJI, THE PESHWA ARMY HAS ALREADY REACHED THE BANKS OF THE RIVER KSHIPRA.
OH! SEND FOR TUKOJI. I WILL SEE HIM IN THE INNER CHAMBER.

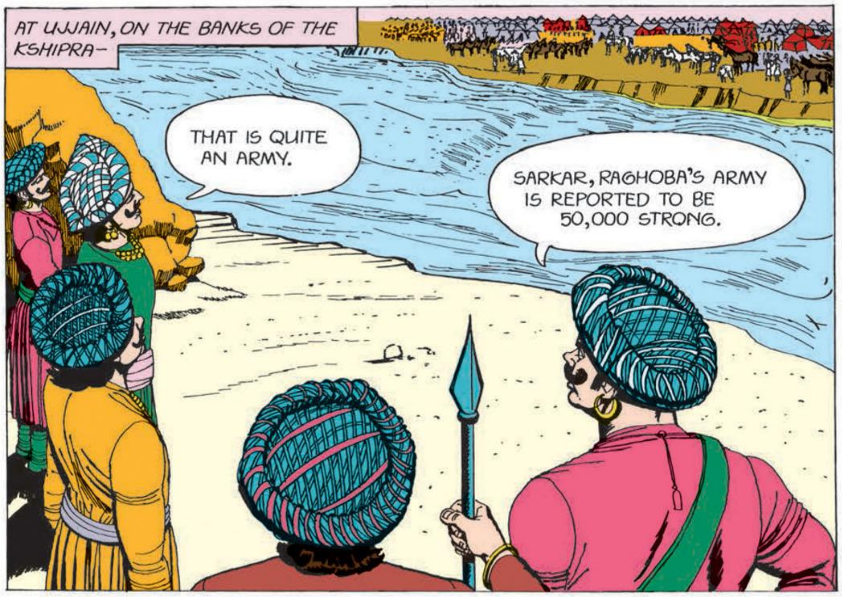

WHEN TUKOJI CAME—
TUKOJI, YOU ARE MY ABLE LIEUTENANT. RAGHOBA WANTS TO PLAY MISCHIEF. GET OUR ARMY READY.

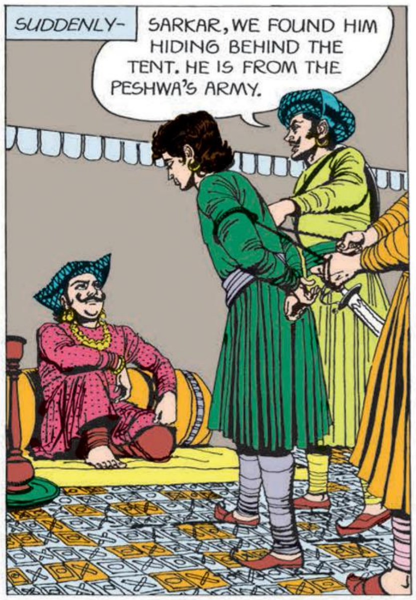

TAKE THESE MESSAGES TO THE PESHWA MADHAVRAO IN POONA AND TO OUR FRIENDS IN GWALIOR, NAGPUR, BARODA...

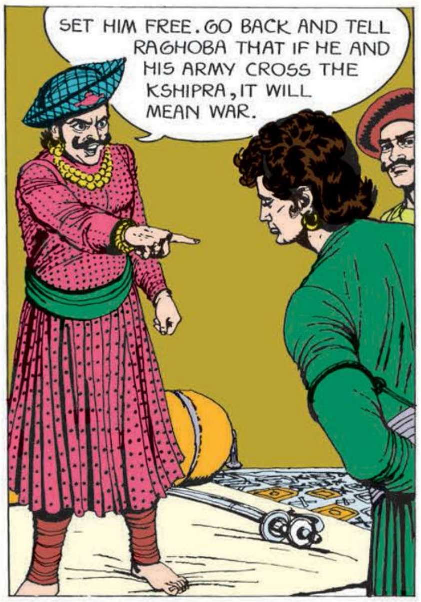

AT THE COURT OF MADHAVRAO PESHWA—
WRITE TO AHILYABAI THAT WE DISAPPROVE OF RAGHOBA'S ACTION. LET HER PUNISH ALL WHO COME IN HER WAY.

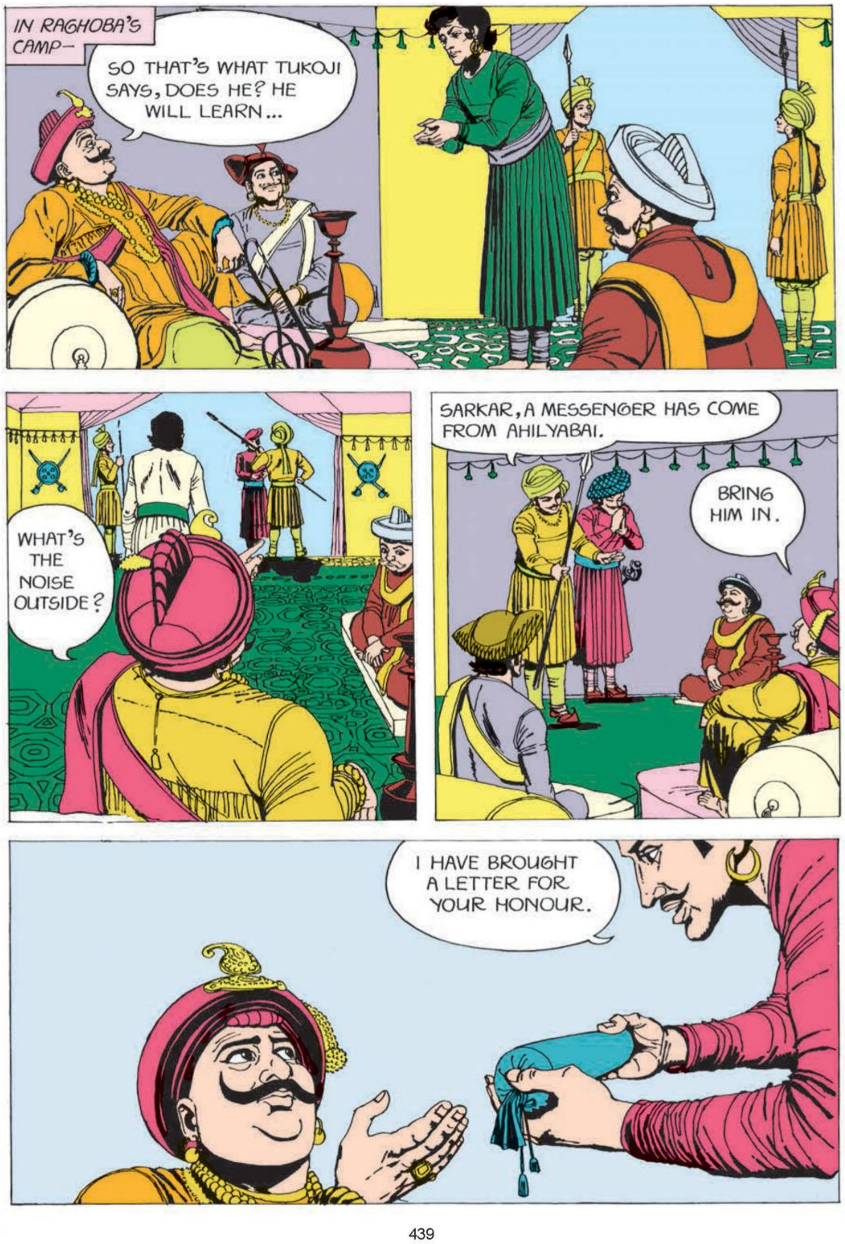

WHEN THE MESSAGE REACHED AHILYABAI AT INDORE—
* SHRIMANT HAS GIVEN US HIS FULL SUPPORT. NOW WE MAY FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.

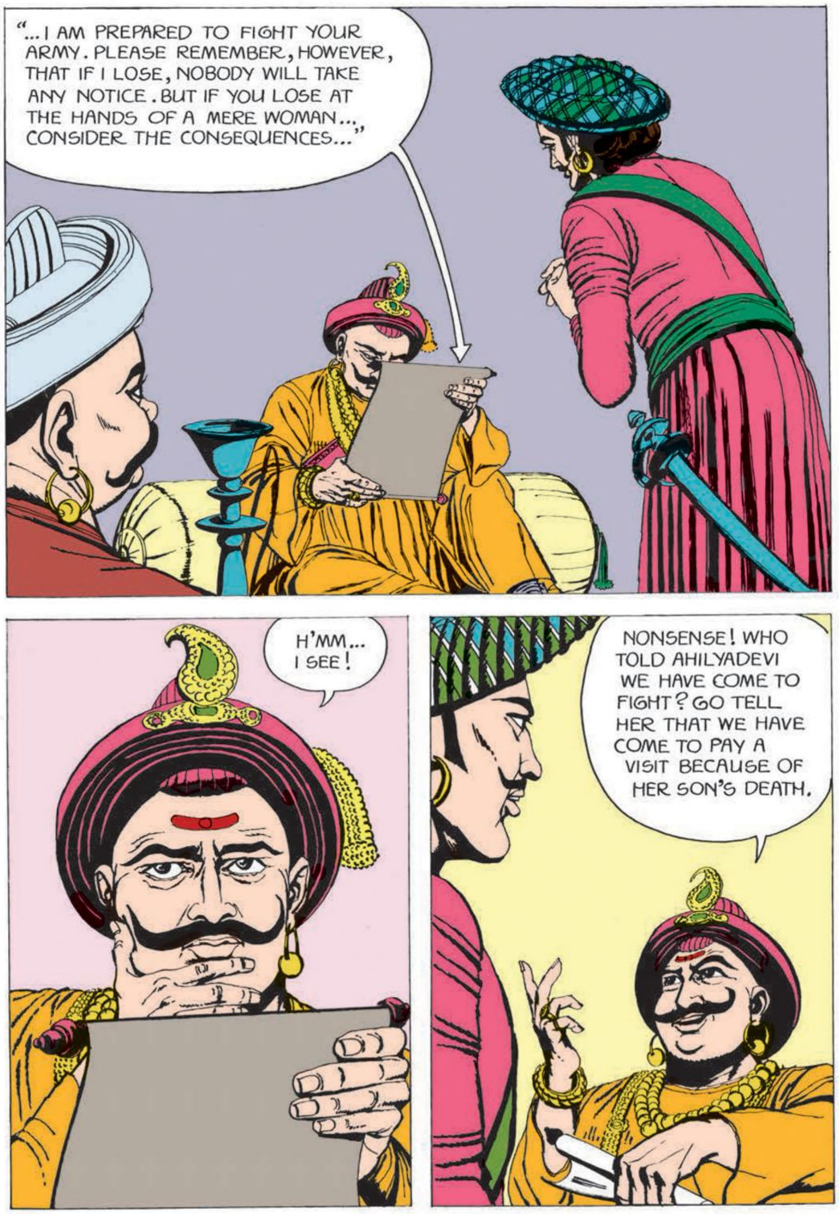
* THE PESHWA.

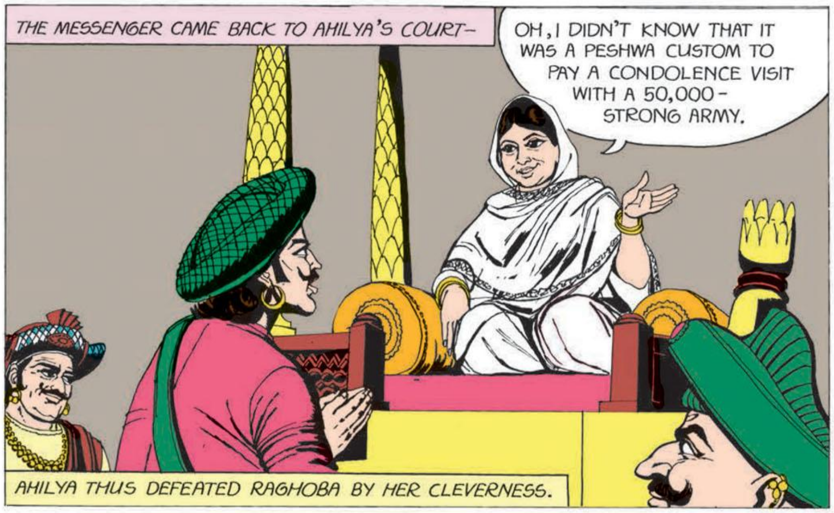

AT UJJAIN, ON THE BANKS OF THE KSHIPRA–
THAT IS QUITE AN ARMY.
SARKAR, RAGHOBA'S ARMY IS REPORTED TO BE 50,000 STRONG.

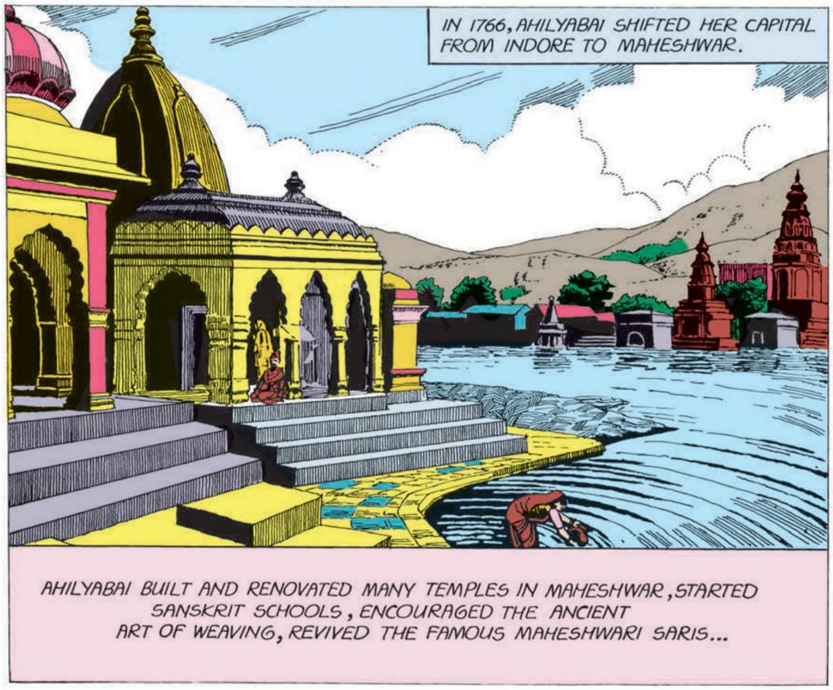

SUDDENLY–
SARKAR, WE FOUND HIM HIDING BEHIND THE TENT. HE IS FROM THE PESHWA'S ARMY.

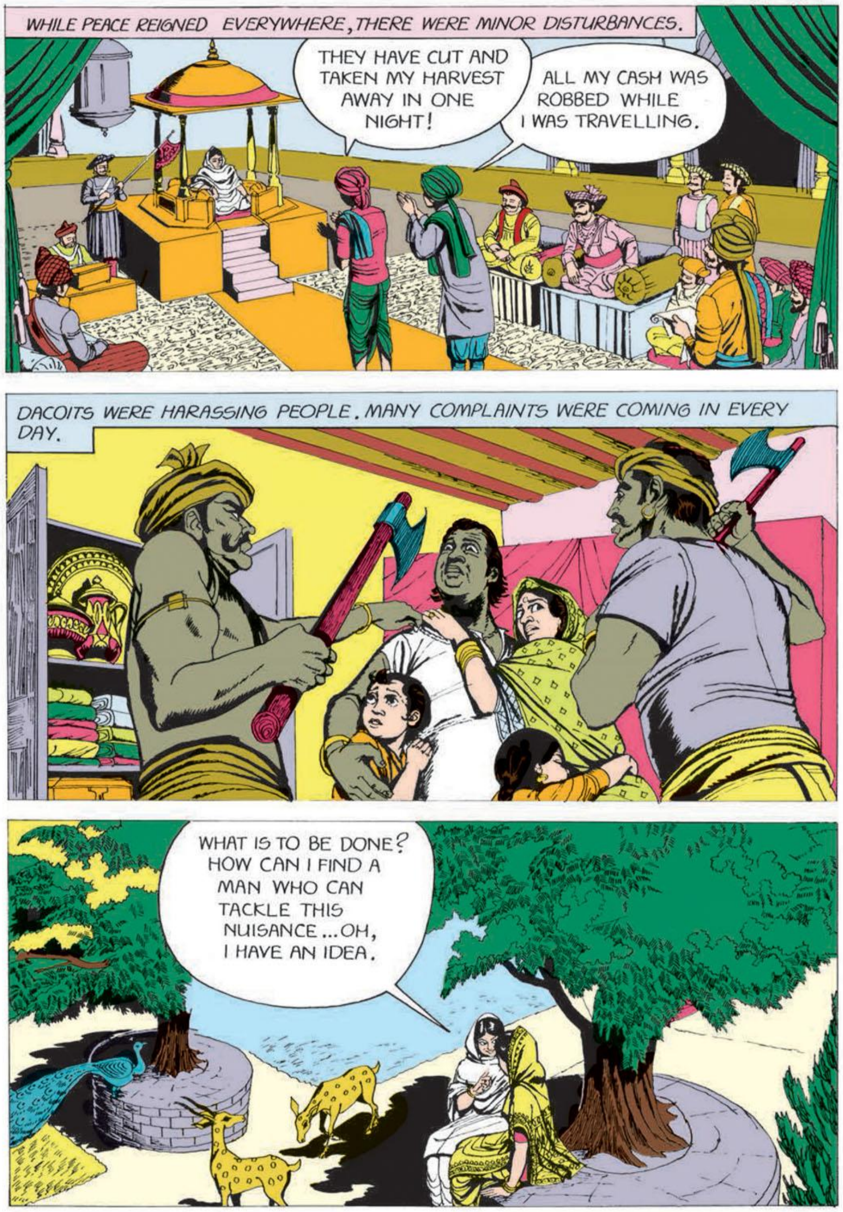

SET HIM FREE. GO BACK AND TELL RAGHOBA THAT IF HE AND HIS ARMY CROSS THE KSHIPRA, IT WILL MEAN WAR.

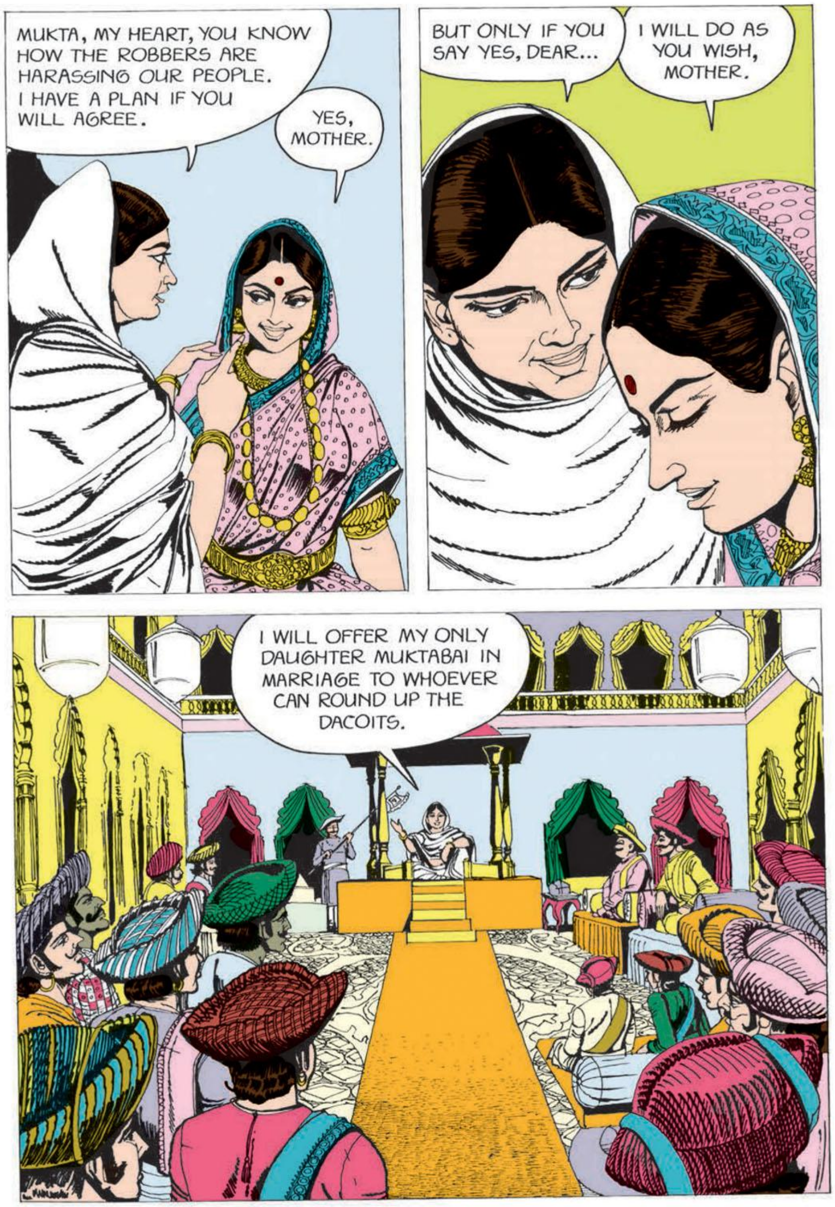

IN RAGHOBA'S CAMP—
SO THAT'S WHAT TUKOJI SAYS, DOES HE? HE WILL LEARN...
WHAT'S THE NOISE OUTSIDE?
SARKAR, A MESSENGER HAS COME FROM AHILYABAI.
BRING HIM IN.
I HAVE BROUGHT A LETTER FOR YOUR HONOUR.

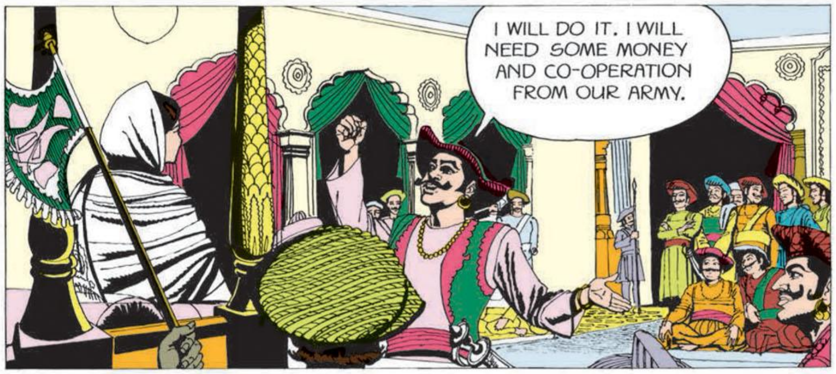

"...I AM PREPARED TO FIGHT YOUR ARMY. PLEASE REMEMBER, HOWEVER, THAT IF I LOSE, NOBODY WILL TAKE ANY NOTICE. BUT IF YOU LOSE AT THE HANDS OF A MERE WOMAN..., CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES..."
H'MM... I SEE!
NONSENSE! WHO TOLD AHILYADEVI WE HAVE COME TO FIGHT? GO TELL HER THAT WE HAVE COME TO PAY A VISIT BECAUSE OF HER SON'S DEATH.

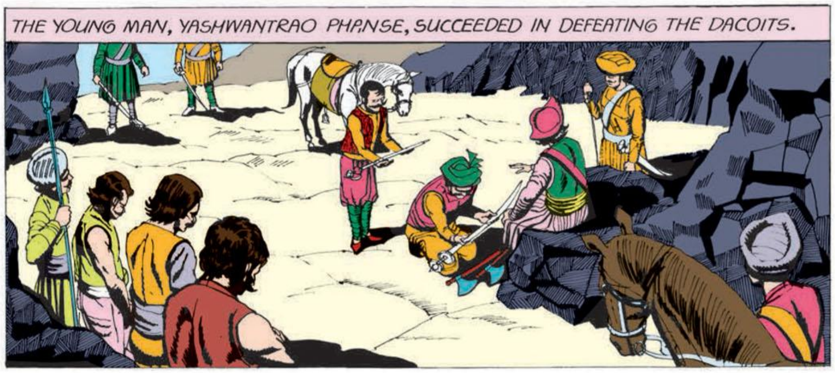

THE MESSENGER CAME BACK TO AHILYA'S COURT–
OH, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT WAS A PESHWA CUSTOM TO PAY A CONDOLENCE VISIT WITH A 50,000-STRONG ARMY.
AHILYA THUS DEFEATED RAGHOBA BY HER CLEVERNESS.

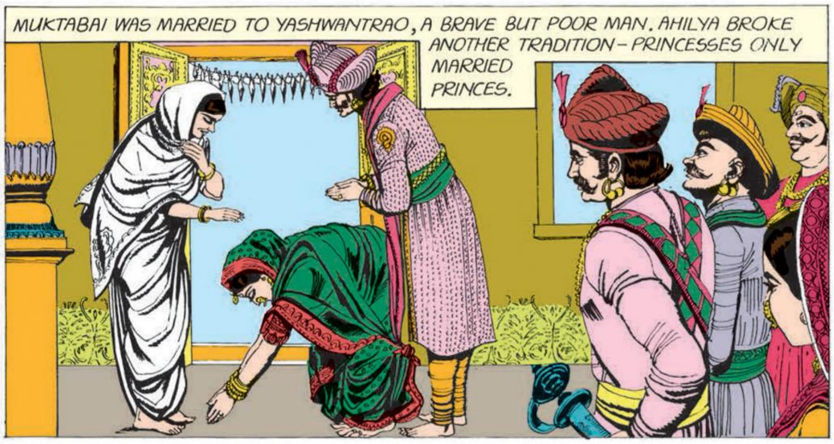

IN 1766, AHILYABAI SHIFTED HER CAPITAL FROM INDORE TO MAHESHWAR.
AHILYABAI BUILT AND RENOVATED MANY TEMPLES IN MAHESHWAR, STARTED SANSKRIT SCHOOLS, ENCOURAGED THE ANCIENT ART OF WEAVING, REVIVED THE FAMOUS MAHESHWARI SARIS...

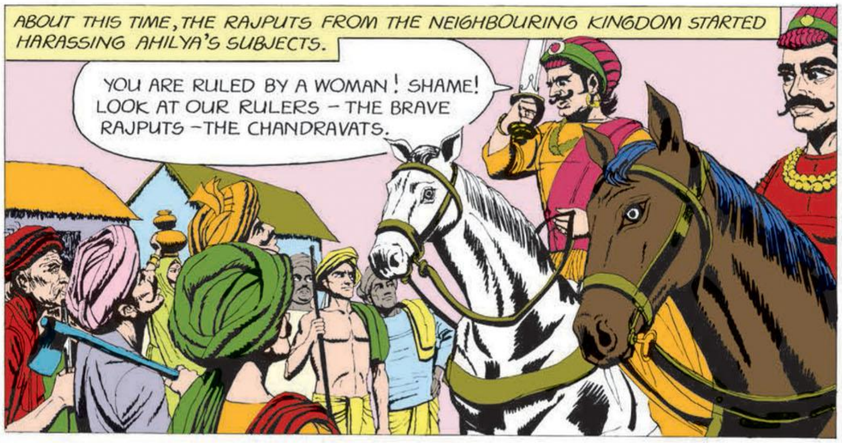

WHILE PEACE REIGNED EVERYWHERE, THERE WERE MINOR DISTURBANCES.
THEY HAVE CUT AND TAKEN MY HARVEST AWAY IN ONE NIGHT!
ALL MY CASH WAS ROBBED WHILE I WAS TRAVELLING.
DACOITS WERE HARASSING PEOPLE. MANY COMPLAINTS WERE COMING IN EVERY DAY.
WHAT IS TO BE DONE? HOW CAN I FIND A MAN WHO CAN TACKLE THIS NUISANCE...OH, I HAVE AN IDEA.

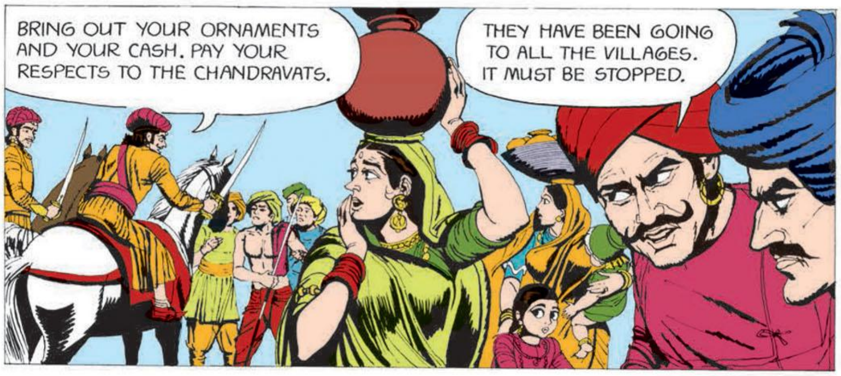

MUKTA, MY HEART, YOU KNOW HOW THE ROBBERS ARE HARASSING OUR PEOPLE. I HAVE A PLAN IF YOU WILL AGREE.
YES, MOTHER.
BUT ONLY IF YOU SAY YES, DEAR...
I WILL DO AS YOU WISH, MOTHER.
I WILL OFFER MY ONLY DAUGHTER MUKTABAI IN MARRIAGE TO WHOEVER CAN ROUND UP THE DACOITS.

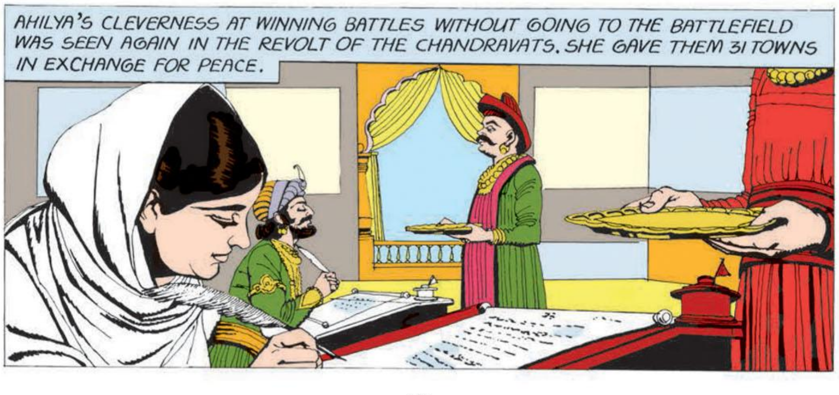

I WILL DO IT. I WILL NEED SOME MONEY AND CO-OPERATION FROM OUR ARMY.

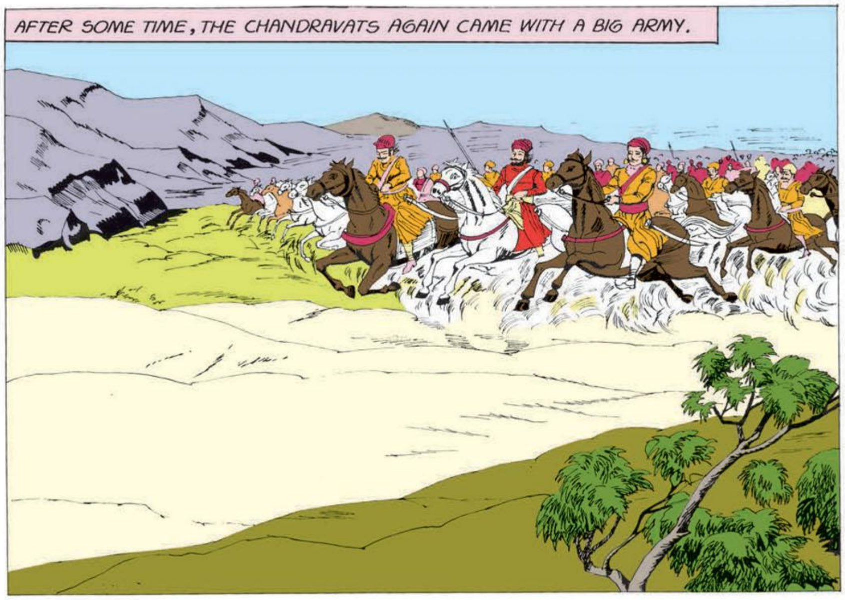

THE YOUNG MAN, YASHWANTRAO PHANSE, SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING THE DACOITS.

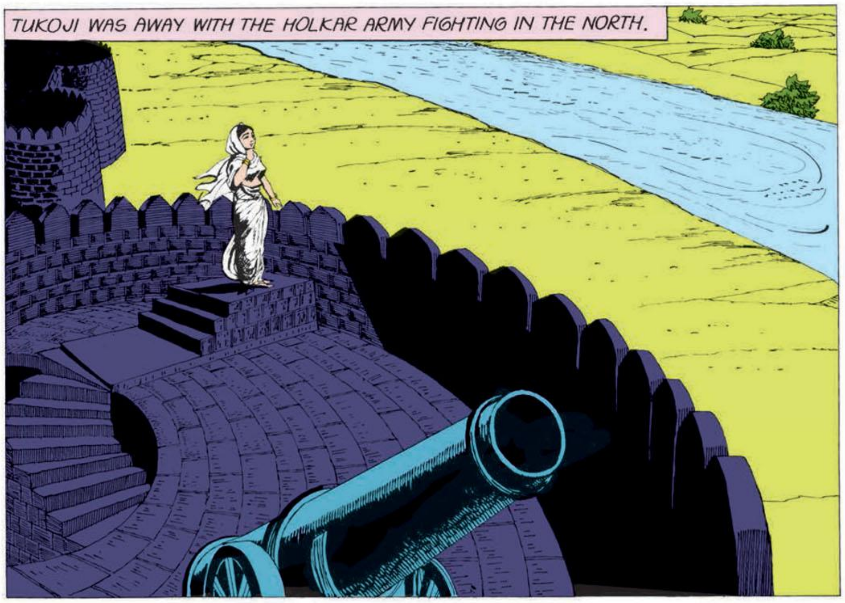

MUKTABAI WAS MARRIED TO YASHWANTRAO, A BRAVE BUT POOR MAN. AHILYA BROKE ANOTHER TRADITION – PRINCESSES ONLY MARRIED PRINCES.

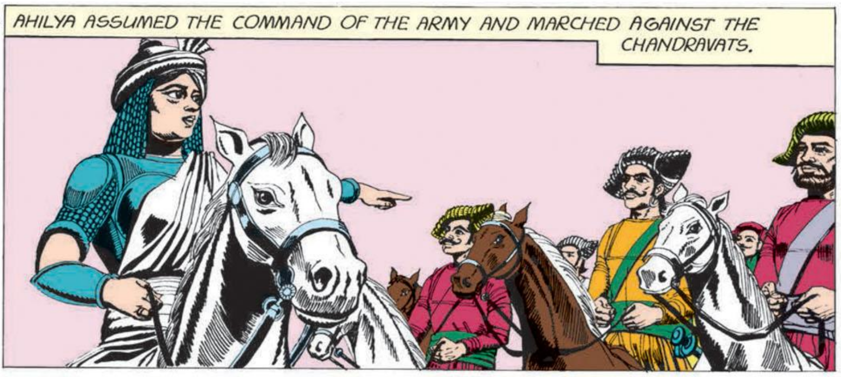

ABOUT THIS TIME, THE RAJPUTS FROM THE NEIGHBOURING KINGDOM STARTED HARASSING AHILYA'S SUBJECTS.
YOU ARE RULED BY A WOMAN! SHAME! LOOK AT OUR RULERS – THE BRAVE RAJPUTS – THE CHANDRAVATS.


BRING OUT YOUR ORNAMENTS AND YOUR CASH. PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO THE CHANDRAVATS.
THEY HAVE BEEN GOING TO ALL THE VILLAGES. IT MUST BE STOPPED.

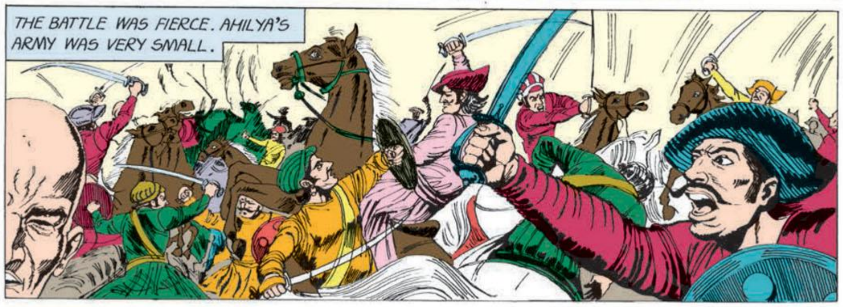

AHILYA'S CLEVERNESS AT WINNING BATTLES WITHOUT GOING TO THE BATTLEFIELD WAS SEEN AGAIN IN THE REVOLT OF THE CHANDRAVATS. SHE GAVE THEM 31 TOWNS IN EXCHANGE FOR PEACE.


AFTER SOME TIME, THE CHANDRAVATS AGAIN CAME WITH A BIG ARMY.

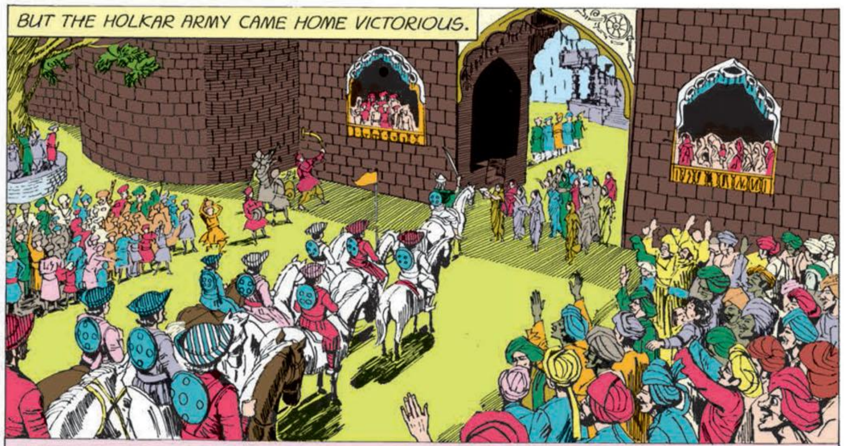

TUKOJI WAS AWAY WITH THE HOLKAR ARMY FIGHTING IN THE NORTH.



AHILYA ASSUMED THE COMMAND OF THE ARMY AND MARCHED AGAINST THE CHANDRAVATS.

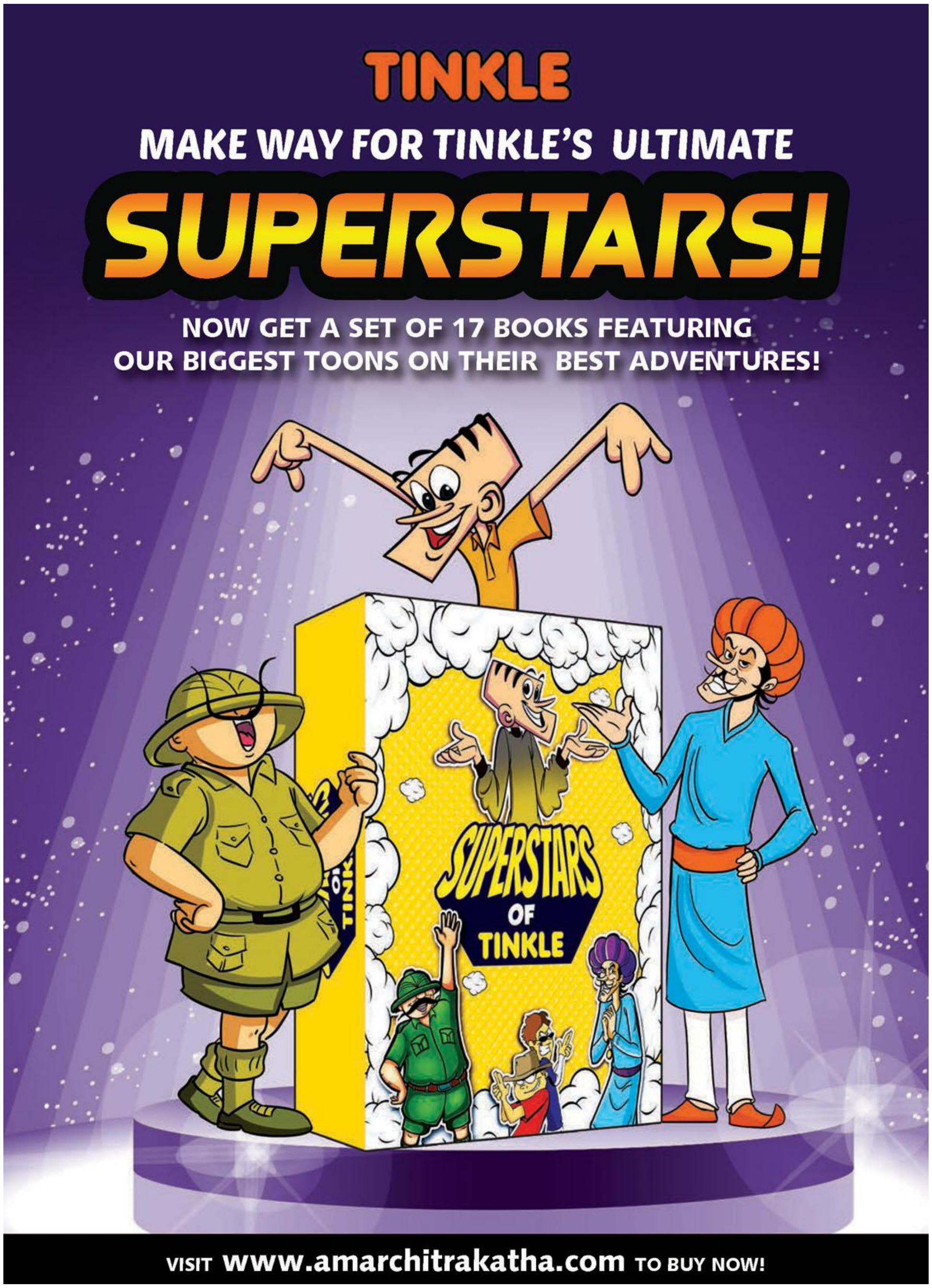


THE BATTLE WAS FIERCE. AHILYA'S ARMY WAS VERY SMALL.



BUT THE HOLKAR ARMY CAME HOME VICTORIOUS.

AHILYABAI LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE. HER WORK IS REMEMBERED TO THIS DAY. IN MANY PARTS OF INDIA, YOU WILL FIND MONUMENTS TO AHILYA'S GENEROSITY AND PIOUSNESS.

TINKLE

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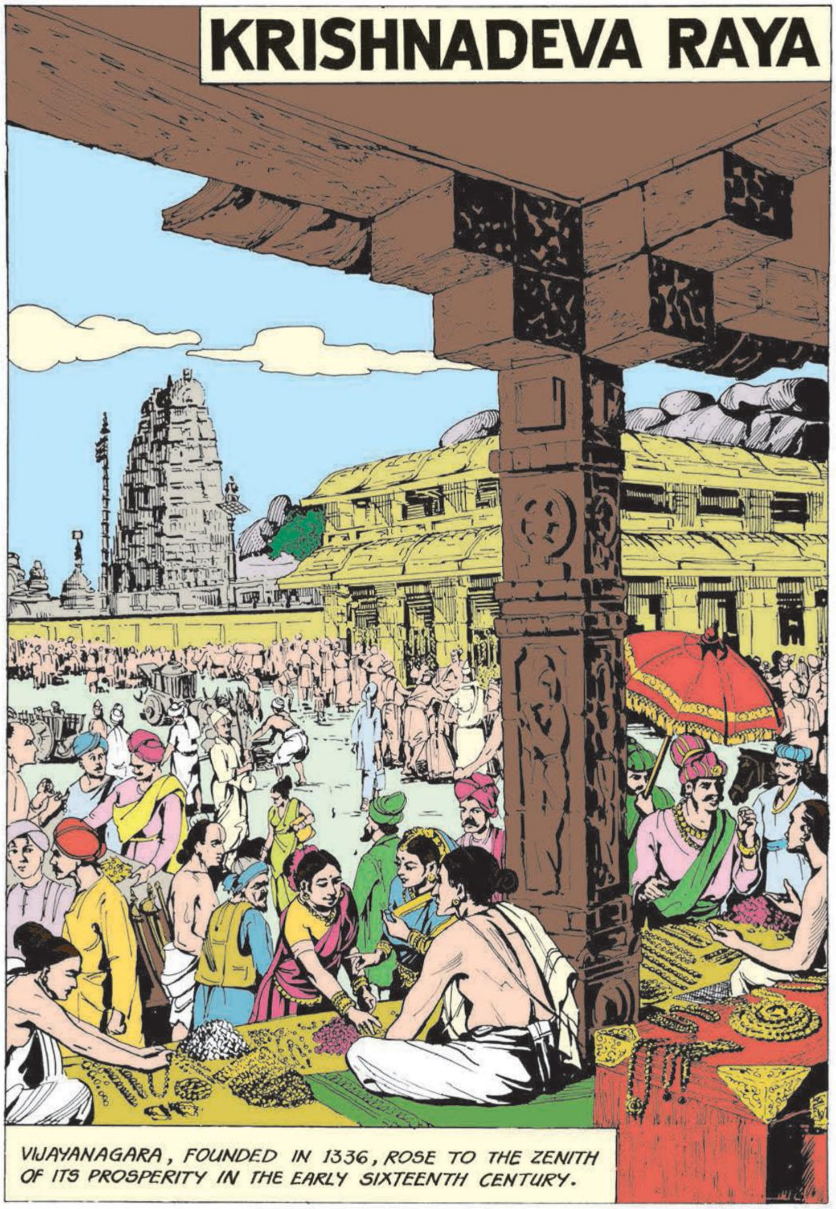
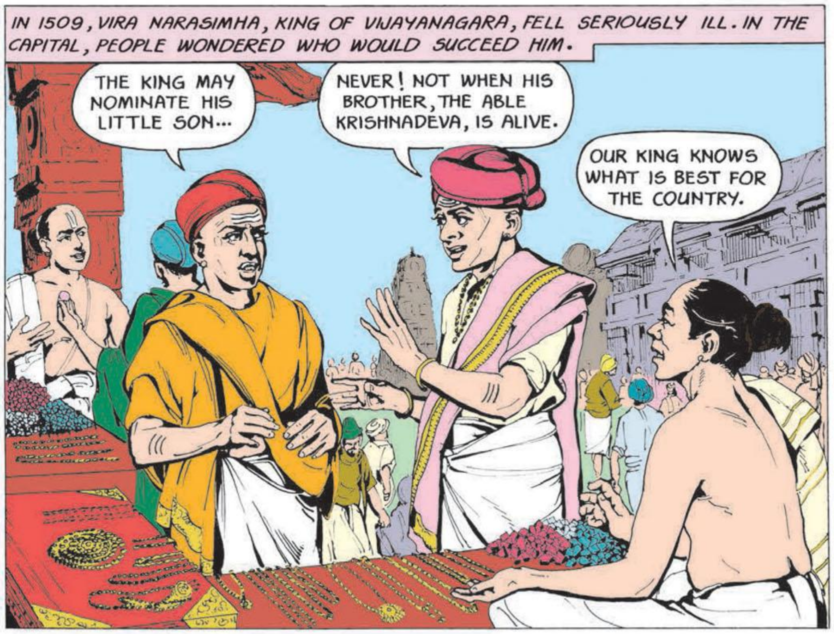
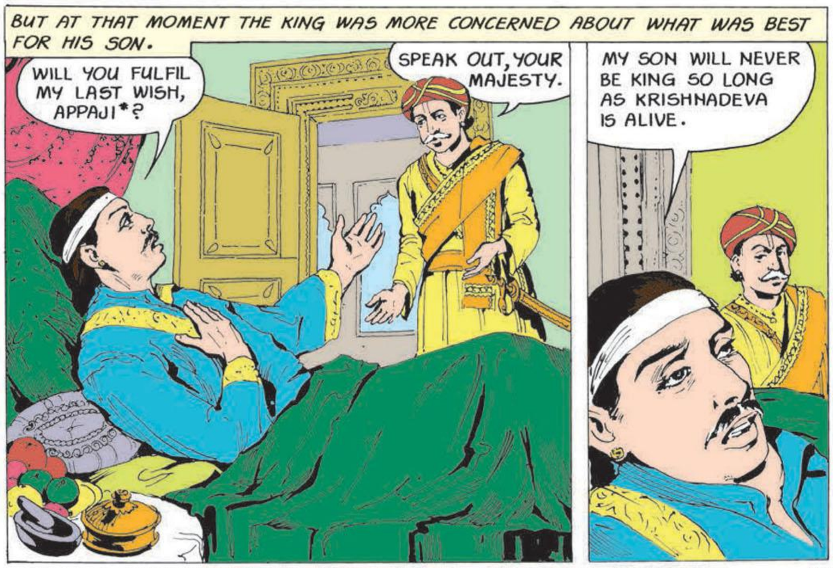
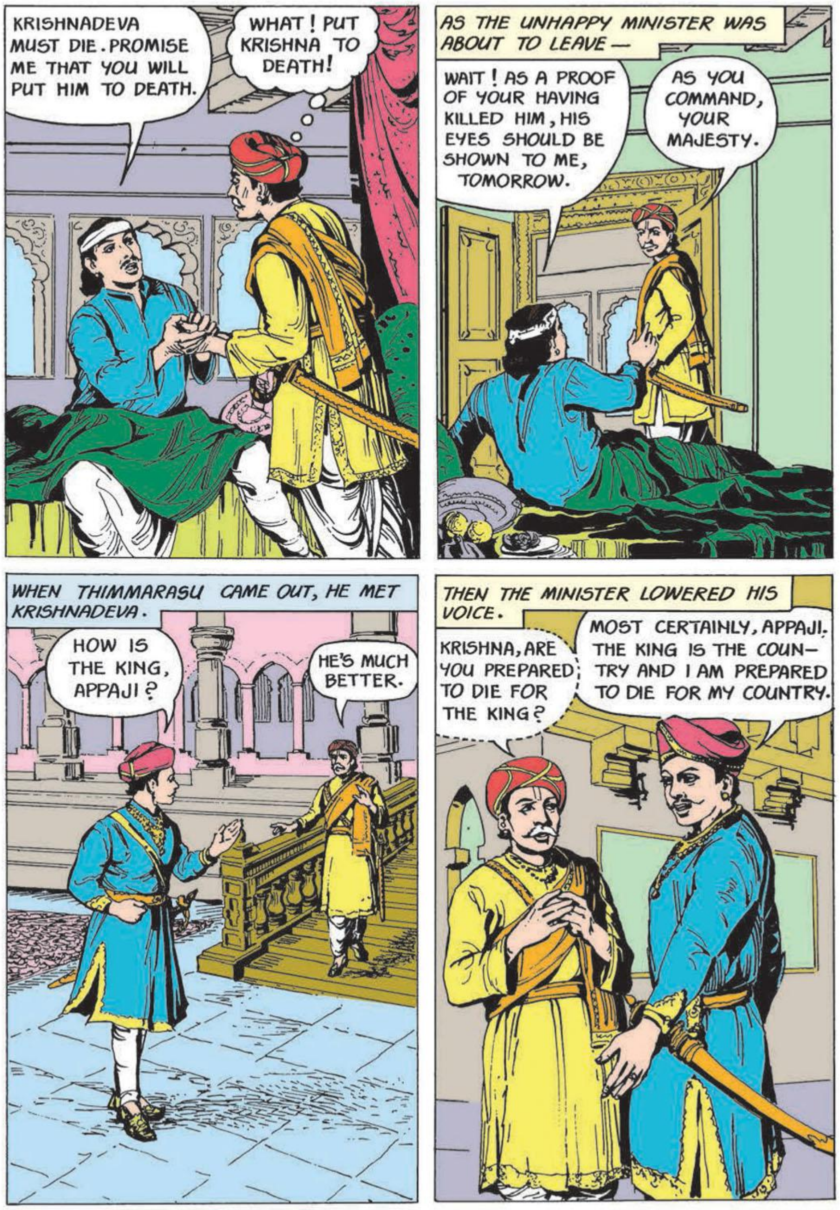
# KRISHNADEVA RAYA

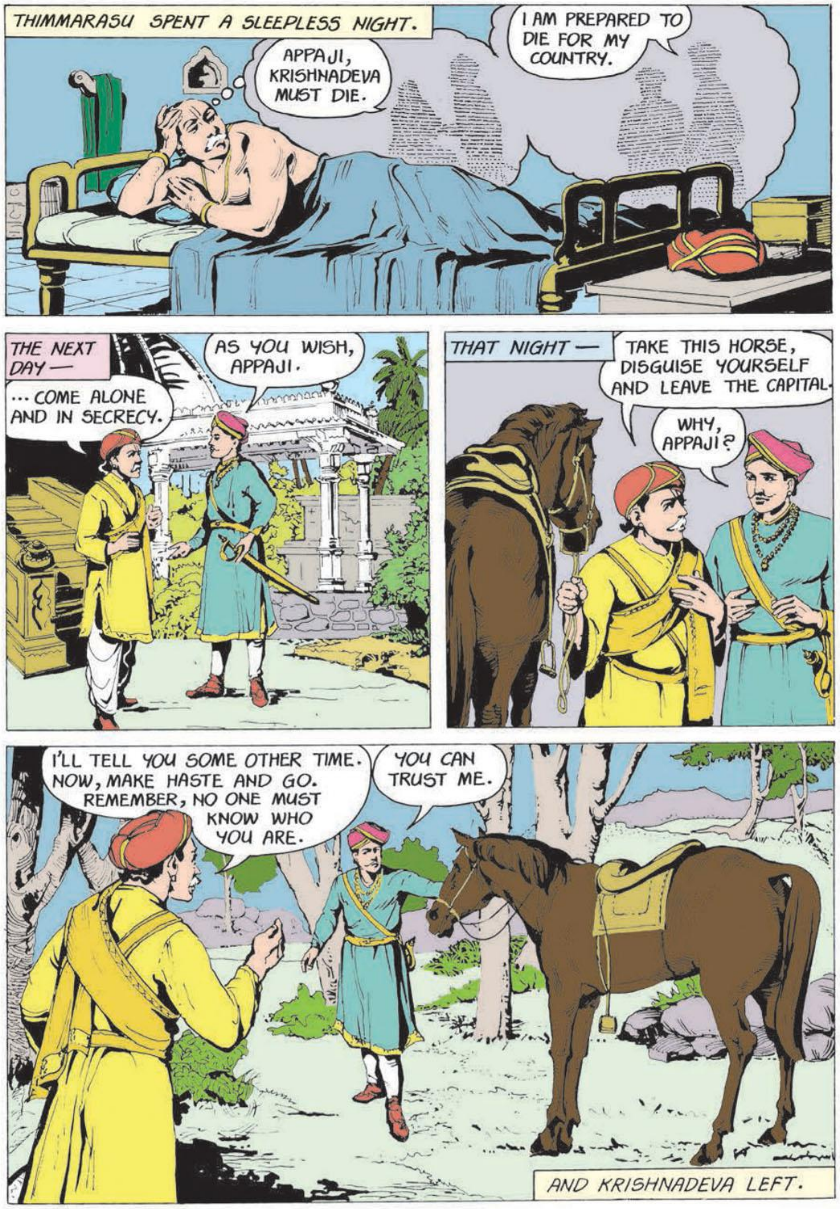

VIJAYANAGARA, FOUNDED IN 1336, ROSE TO THE ZENITH OF ITS PROSPERITY IN THE EARLY SIXTEENTH CENTURY.


IN 1509, VIRA NARASIMHA, KING OF VIJAYANAGARA, FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. IN THE CAPITAL, PEOPLE WONDERED WHO WOULD SUCCEED HIM.
THE KING MAY NOMINATE HIS LITTLE SON...
NEVER! NOT WHEN HIS BROTHER, THE ABLE KRISHNADEVA, IS ALIVE.
OUR KING KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COUNTRY.

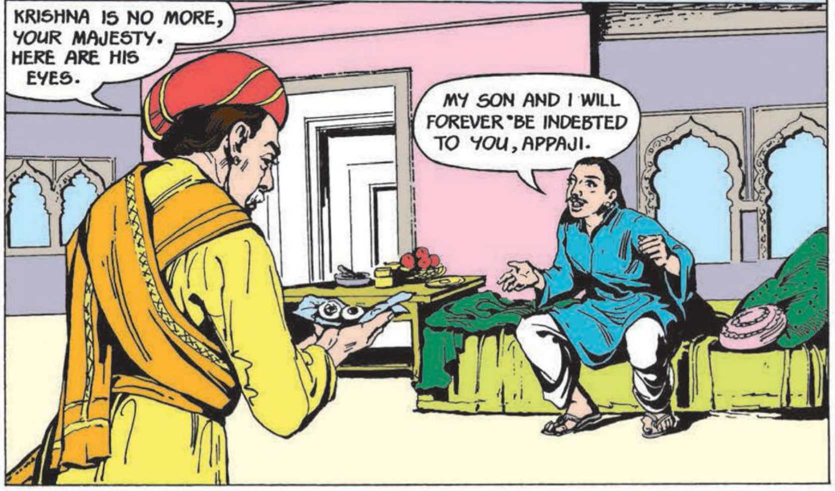

BUT AT THAT MOMENT THE KING WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WAS BEST FOR HIS SON.
WILL YOU FULFIL MY LAST WISH, APPAJI*?
SPEAK OUT, YOUR MAJESTY.
MY SON WILL NEVER BE KING SO LONG AS KRISHNADEVA IS ALIVE.

* MINISTER THIMMARASU WAS AFFECTIONATELY ADDRESSED AS APPAJI.

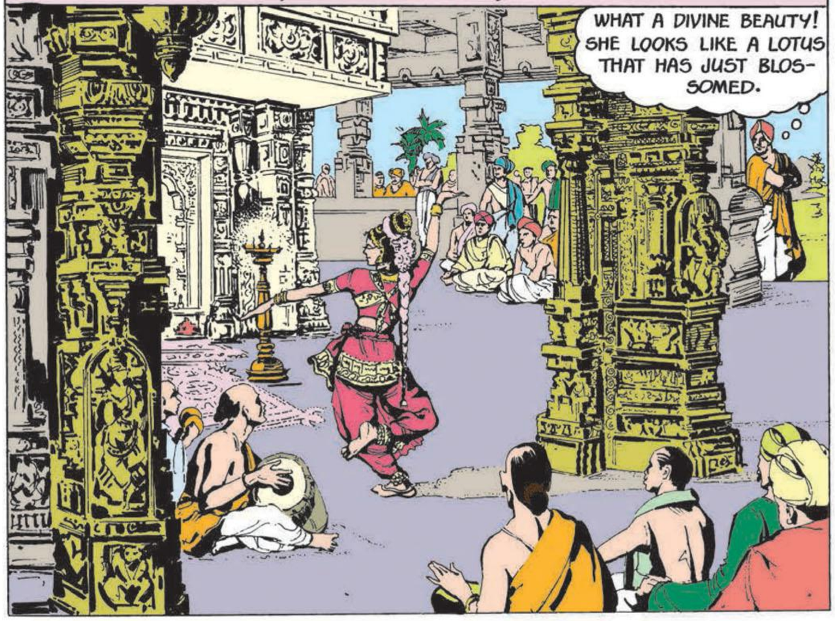

KRISHNADEVA MUST DIE. PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL PUT HIM TO DEATH.
WHAT! PUT KRISHNA TO DEATH!
AS THE UNHAPPY MINISTER WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE —
WAIT! AS A PROOF OF YOUR HAVING KILLED HIM, HIS EYES SHOULD BE SHOWN TO ME, TOMORROW.
AS YOU COMMAND, YOUR MAJESTY.
WHEN THIMMARASU CAME OUT, HE MET KRISHNADEVA.
HOW IS THE KING, APPAJI?
HE'S MUCH BETTER.
THEN THE MINISTER LOWERED HIS VOICE.
KRISHNA, ARE YOU PREPARED TO DIE FOR THE KING?
MOST CERTAINLY, APPAJI. THE KING IS THE COUNTRY AND I AM PREPARED TO DIE FOR MY COUNTRY.

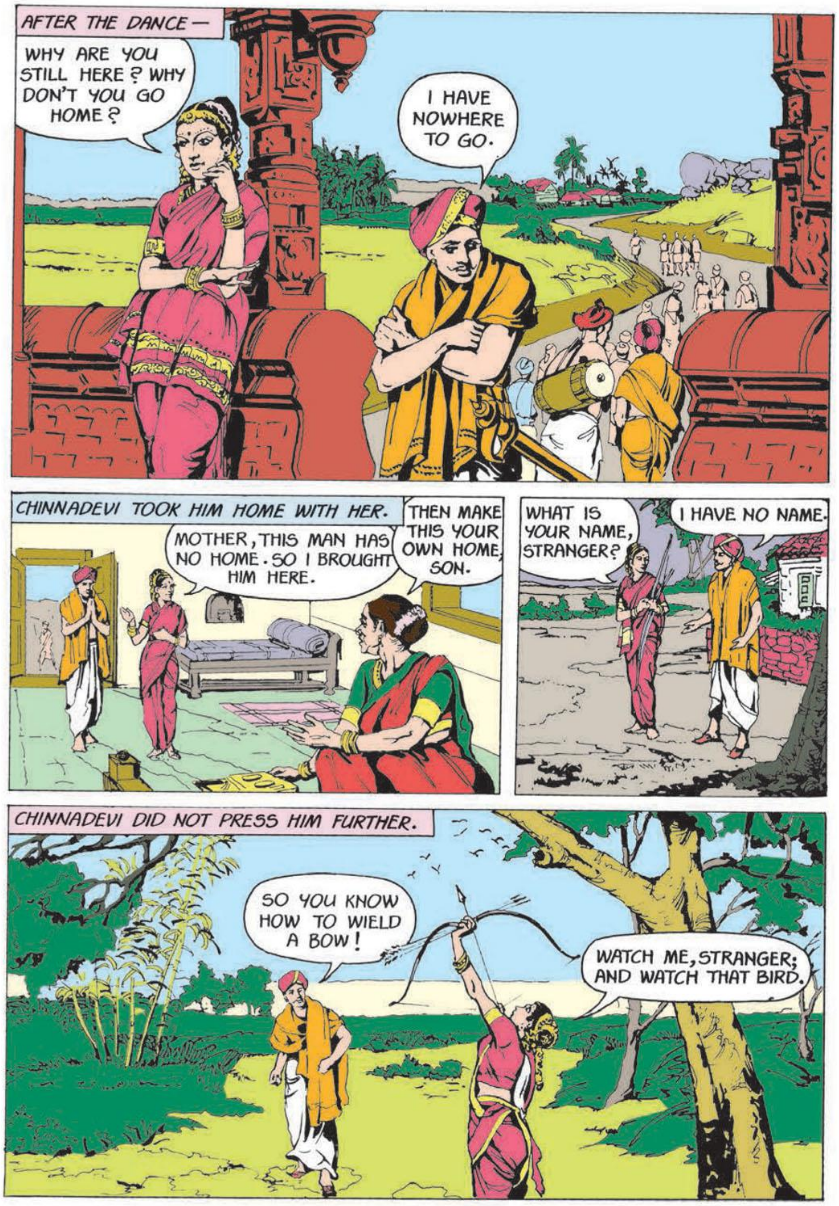

THIMMARASU SPENT A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.
APPAJI, KRISHNADEVA MUST DIE.
I AM PREPARED TO DIE FOR MY COUNTRY.
THE NEXT DAY —
... COME ALONE AND IN SECRECY.
AS YOU WISH, APPAJI.
THAT NIGHT —
TAKE THIS HORSE, DISGUISE YOURSELF AND LEAVE THE CAPITAL.
WHY, APPAJI?
I'LL TELL YOU SOME OTHER TIME. NOW, MAKE HASTE AND GO. REMEMBER, NO ONE MUST KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YOU CAN TRUST ME.
AND KRISHNADEVA LEFT.

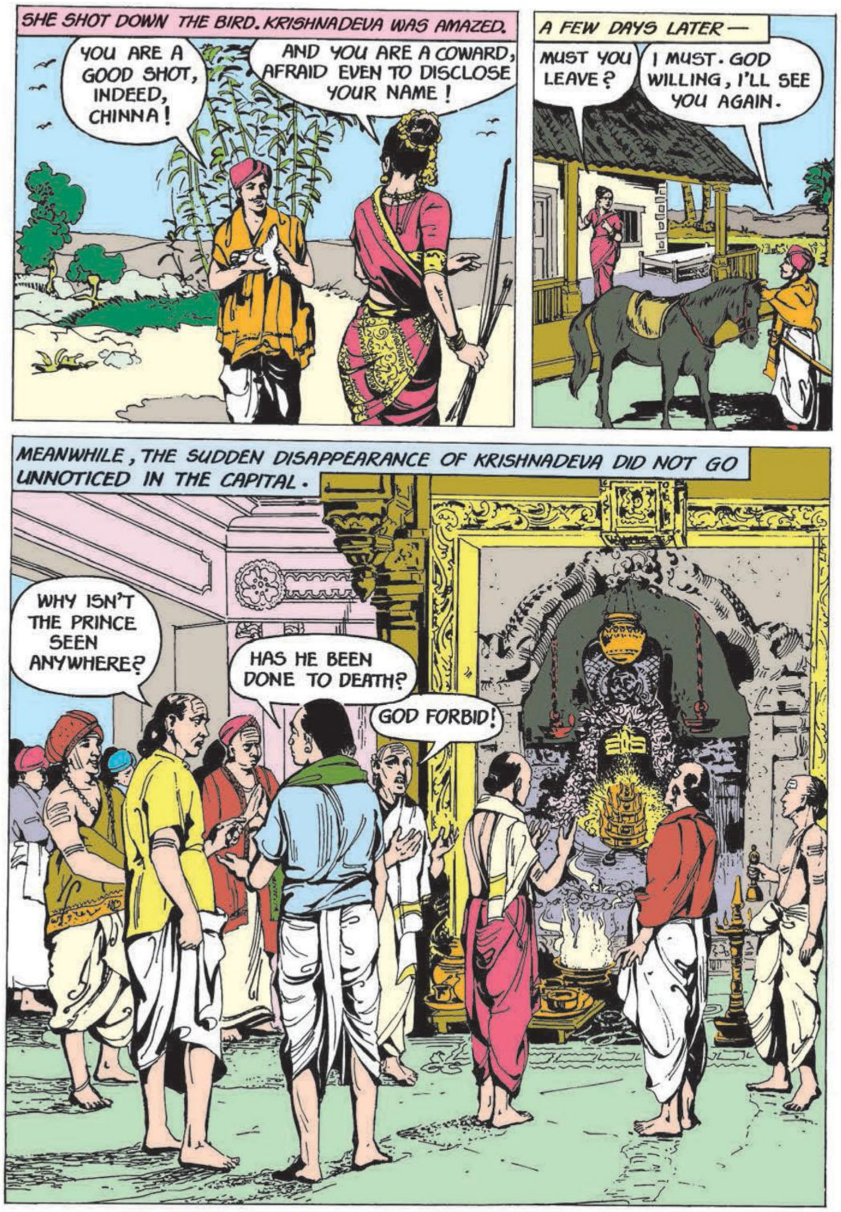
THIMMARASU THEN HAD A GOAT KILLED AND BROUGHT ITS EYES TO THE KING.

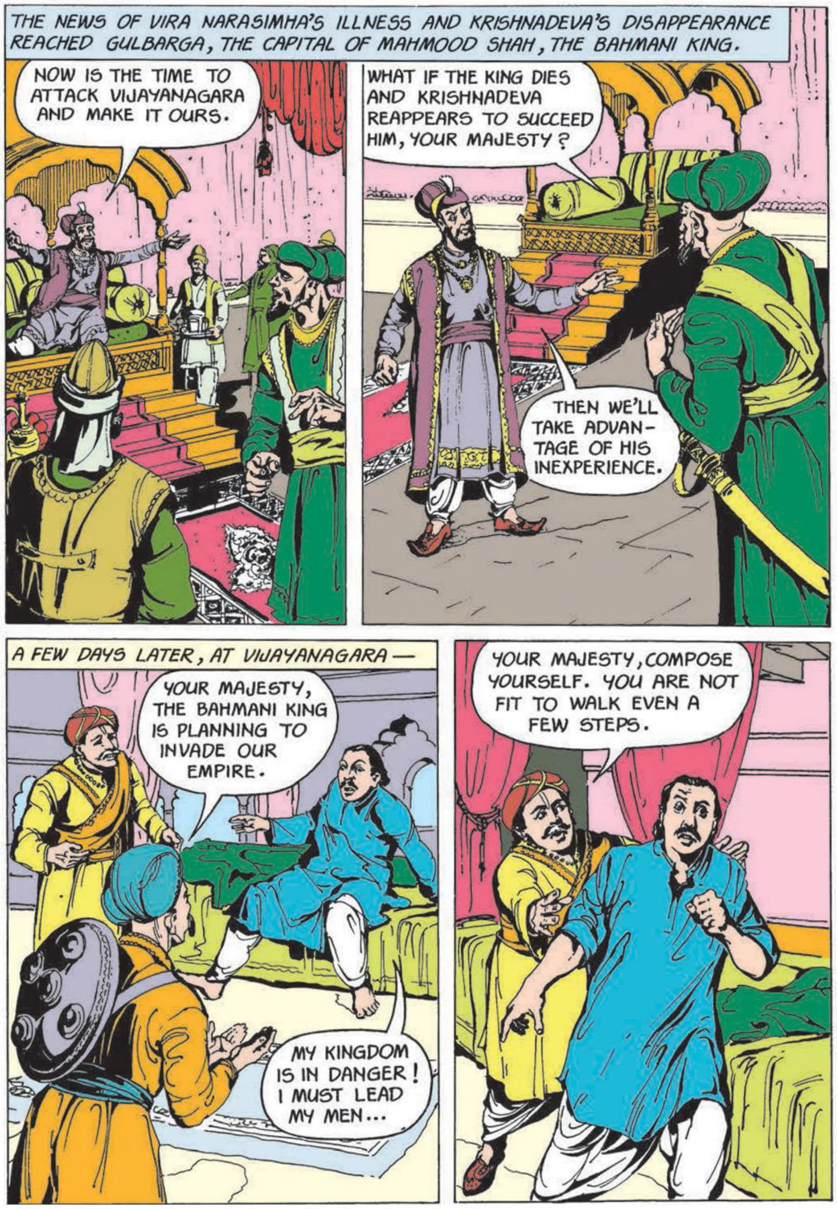

KRISHNA IS NO MORE, YOUR MAJESTY. HERE ARE HIS EYES.
MY SON AND I WILL FOREVER BE INDEBTED TO YOU, APPAJI.

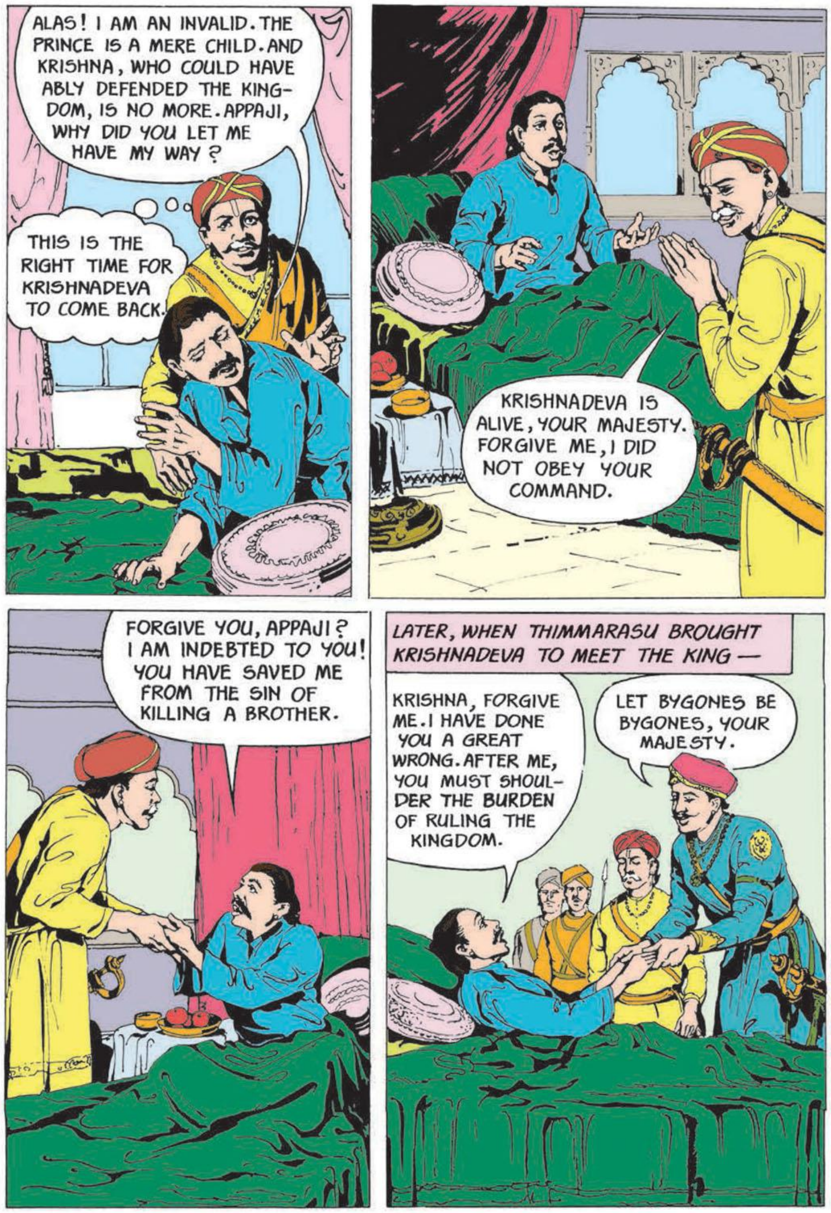
DAYS LATER, WHILE WANDERING INCOGNITO, KRISHNADEVA HAPPENED TO VISIT A TEMPLE WHERE CHINNADEVI, THE TEMPLE DANCER, WAS PERFORMING.

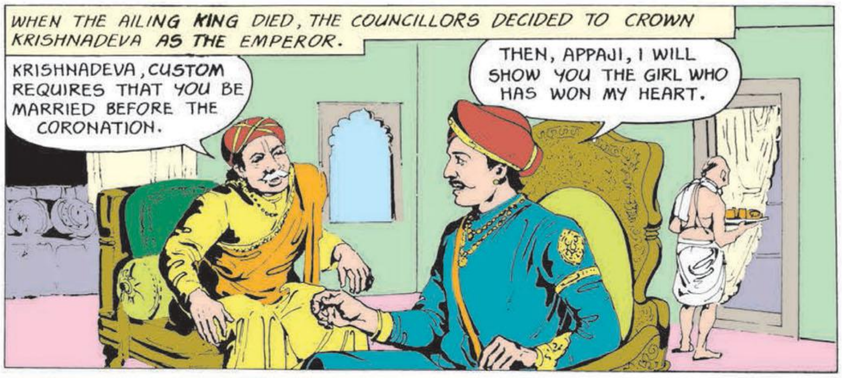

WHAT A DIVINE BEAUTY! SHE LOOKS LIKE A LOTUS THAT HAS JUST BLOSSOMED.

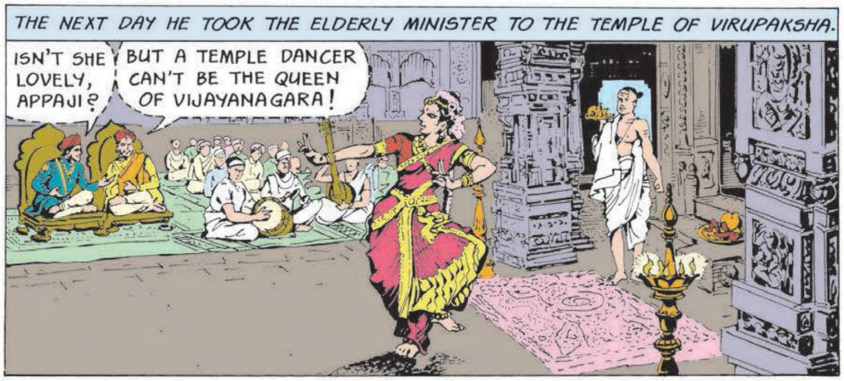

AFTER THE DANCE —
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE ? WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME ?
I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.
CHINNADEVI TOOK HIM HOME WITH HER.
MOTHER, THIS MAN HAS NO HOME. SO I BROUGHT HIM HERE.
THEN MAKE THIS YOUR OWN HOME, SON.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, STRANGER ?
I HAVE NO NAME.
CHINNADEVI DID NOT PRESS HIM FURTHER.
SO YOU KNOW HOW TO WIELD A BOW !
WATCH ME, STRANGER; AND WATCH THAT BIRD.

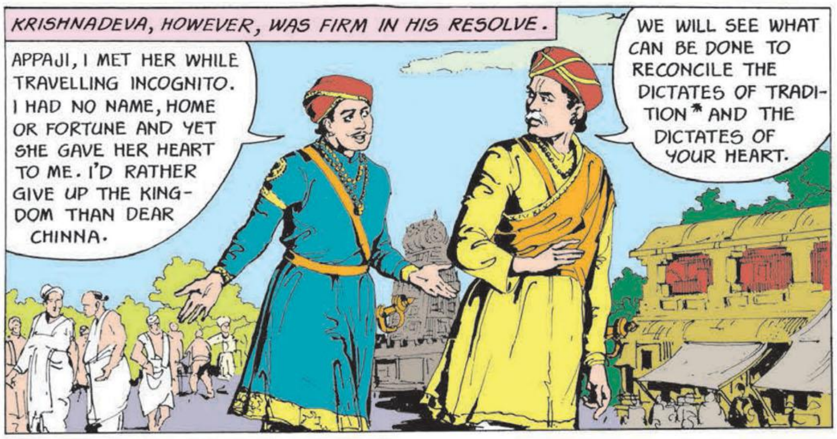

SHE SHOT DOWN THE BIRD. KRISHNADEVA WAS AMAZED.
YOU ARE A GOOD SHOT, INDEED, CHINNA!
AND YOU ARE A COWARD, AFRAID EVEN TO DISCLOSE YOUR NAME!
A FEW DAYS LATER —
MUST YOU LEAVE?
I MUST. GOD WILLING, I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN.
MEANWHILE, THE SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF KRISHNADEVA DID NOT GO UNNOTICED IN THE CAPITAL.
WHY ISN'T THE PRINCE SEEN ANYWHERE?
HAS HE BEEN DONE TO DEATH?
GOD FORBID!


THE NEWS OF VIRA NARASIMHA'S ILLNESS AND KRISHNADEVA'S DISAPPEARANCE REACHED GULBARGA, THE CAPITAL OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING.
NOW IS THE TIME TO ATTACK VIJAYANAGARA AND MAKE IT OURS.
WHAT IF THE KING DIES AND KRISHNADEVA REAPPEARS TO SUCCEED HIM, YOUR MAJESTY?
THEN WE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS INEXPERIENCE.
A FEW DAYS LATER, AT VIJAYANAGARA —
YOUR MAJESTY, THE BAHMANI KING IS PLANNING TO INVADE OUR EMPIRE.
MY KINGDOM IS IN DANGER! I MUST LEAD MY MEN...
YOUR MAJESTY, COMPOSE YOURSELF. YOU ARE NOT FIT TO WALK EVEN A FEW STEPS.

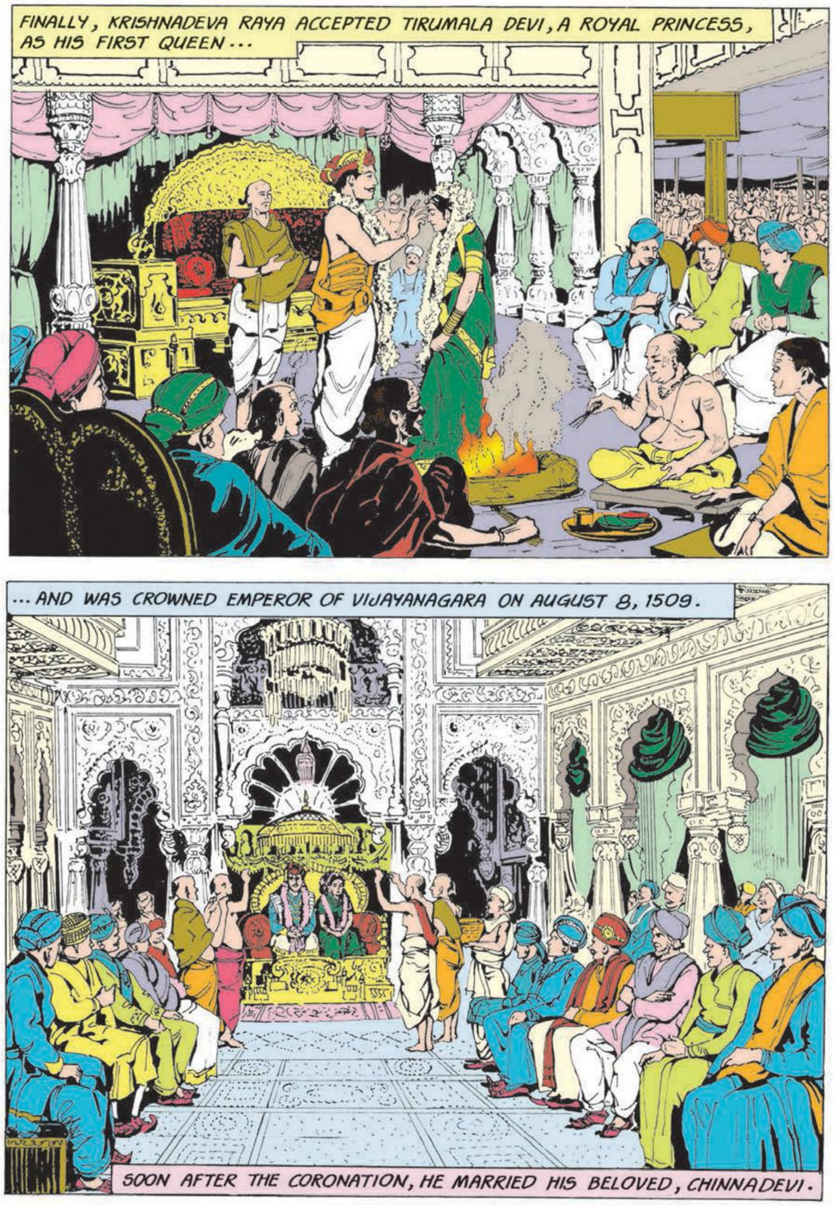

ALAS! I AM AN INVALID. THE PRINCE IS A MERE CHILD. AND KRISHNA, WHO COULD HAVE ABLY DEFENDED THE KINGDOM, IS NO MORE. APPAJI, WHY DID YOU LET ME HAVE MY WAY?
THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR KRISHNADEVA TO COME BACK.
KRISHNADEVA IS ALIVE, YOUR MAJESTY. FORGIVE ME, I DID NOT OBEY YOUR COMMAND.
FORGIVE YOU, APPAJI? I AM INDEBTED TO YOU! YOU HAVE SAVED ME FROM THE SIN OF KILLING A BROTHER.
LATER, WHEN THIMMARASU BROUGHT KRISHNADEVA TO MEET THE KING —
KRISHNA, FORGIVE ME. I HAVE DONE YOU A GREAT WRONG. AFTER ME, YOU MUST SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF RULING THE KINGDOM.
LET BYGONES BE BYGONES, YOUR MAJESTY.

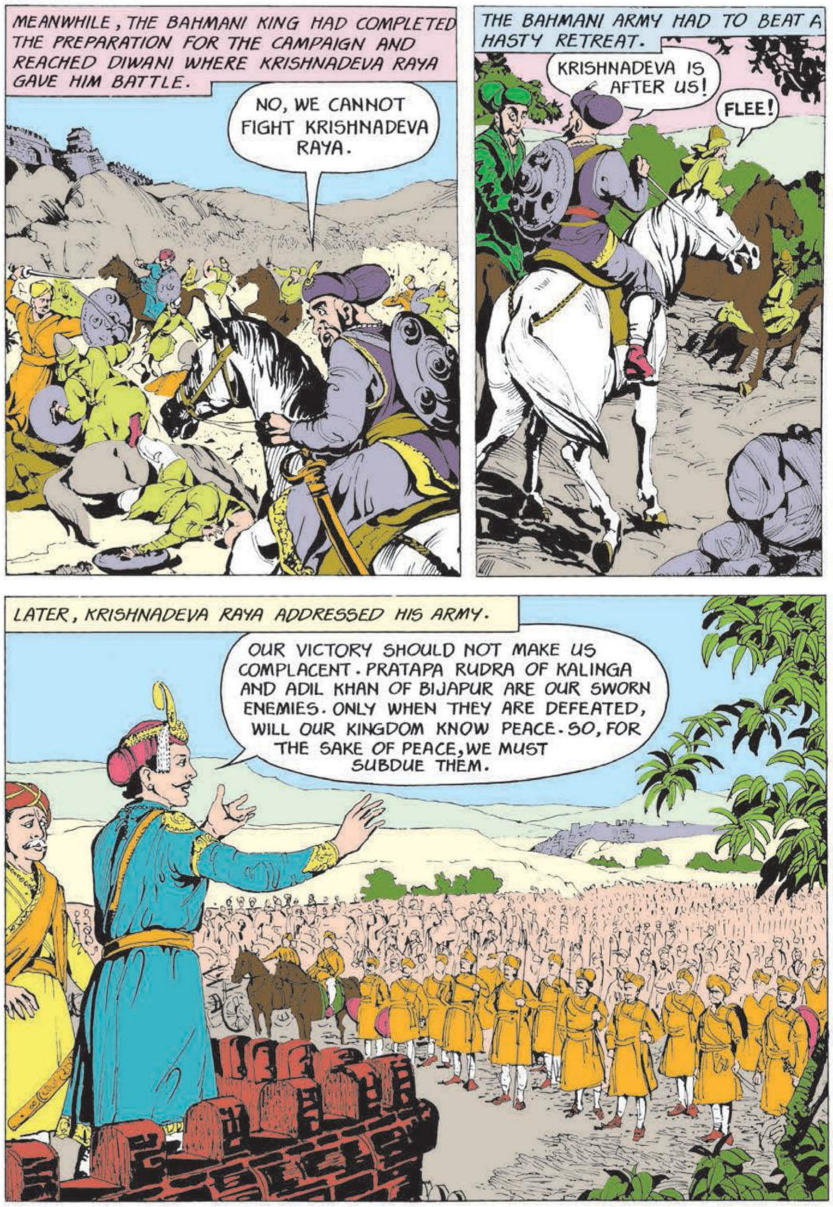

WHEN THE AILING KING DIED, THE COUNCILLORS DECIDED TO CROWN KRISHNADEVA AS THE EMPEROR.
KRISHNADEVA, CUSTOM REQUIRES THAT YOU BE MARRIED BEFORE THE CORONATION.
THEN, APPAJI, I WILL SHOW YOU THE GIRL WHO HAS WON MY HEART.

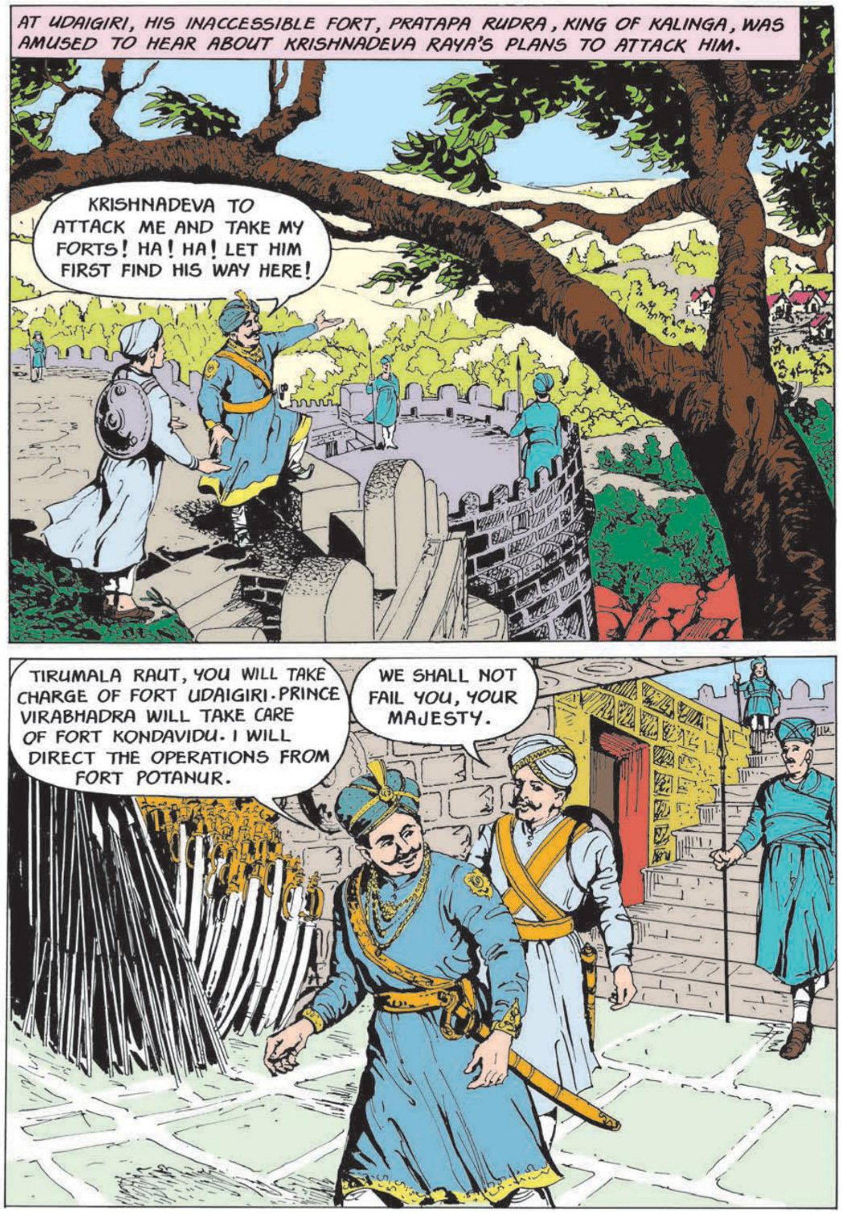

THE NEXT DAY HE TOOK THE ELDERLY MINISTER TO THE TEMPLE OF VIRUPAKSHA.
ISN'T SHE LOVELY, APPAJI?
BUT A TEMPLE DANCER CAN'T BE THE QUEEN OF VIJAYANAGARA!

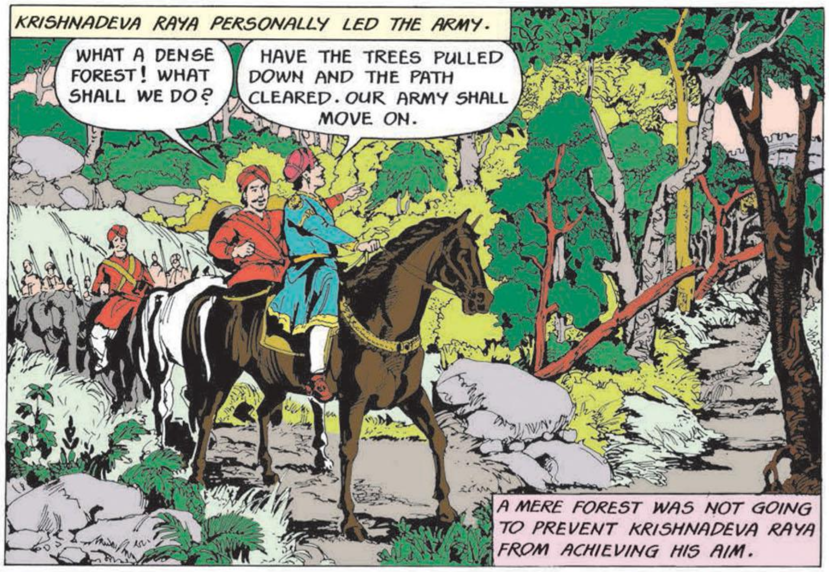

KRISHNADEVA, HOWEVER, WAS FIRM IN HIS RESOLVE.
APPAJI, I MET HER WHILE TRAVELLING INCOGNITO. I HAD NO NAME, HOME OR FORTUNE AND YET SHE GAVE HER HEART TO ME. I'D RATHER GIVE UP THE KINGDOM THAN DEAR CHINNA.
WE WILL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO RECONCILE THE DICTATES OF TRADITION* AND THE DICTATES OF YOUR HEART.

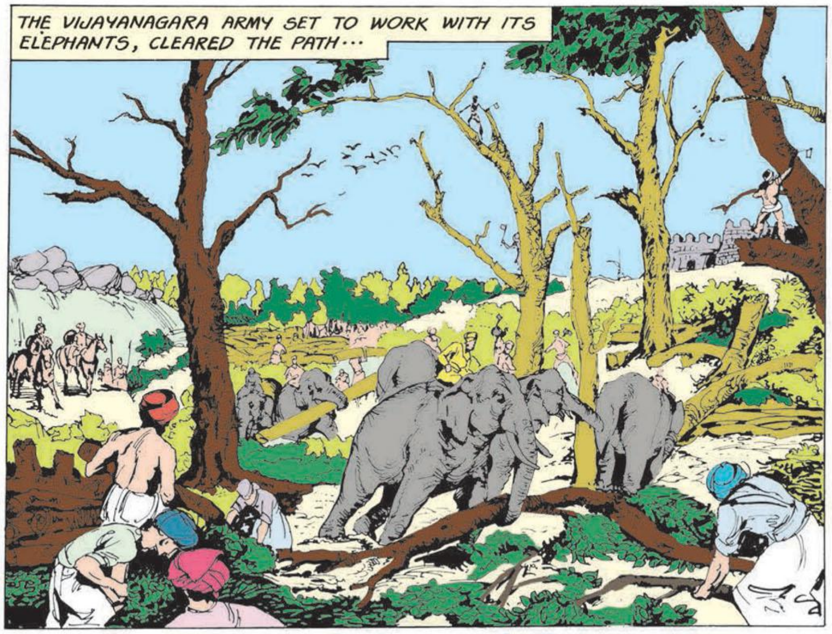
* THE FIRST WIFE OF A KING SHOULD BE A WOMAN OF NOBLE BIRTH.

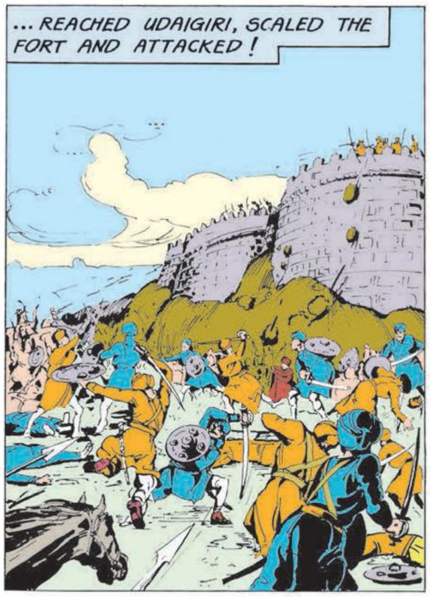

FINALLY, KRISHNADEVA RAYA ACCEPTED TIRUMALA DEVI, A ROYAL PRINCESS, AS HIS FIRST QUEEN...
...AND WAS CROWNED EMPEROR OF VIJAYANAGARA ON AUGUST 8, 1509.
SOON AFTER THE CORONATION, HE MARRIED HIS BELOVED, CHINNADEVI.

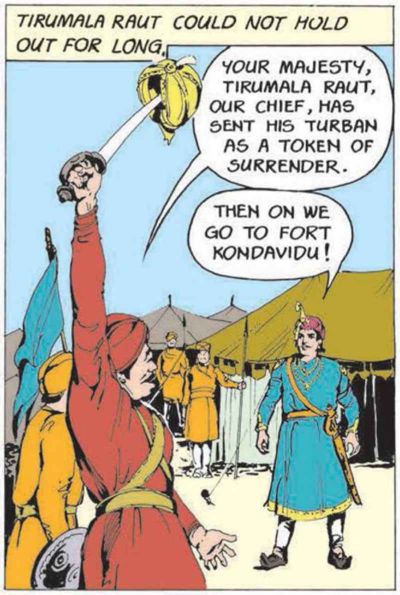

MEANWHILE, THE BAHMANI KING HAD COMPLETED THE PREPARATION FOR THE CAMPAIGN AND REACHED DIWANI WHERE KRISHNADEVA RAYA GAVE HIM BATTLE.
NO, WE CANNOT FIGHT KRISHNADEVA RAYA.
THE BAHMANI ARMY HAD TO BEAT A HASTY RETREAT.
KRISHNADEVA IS AFTER US!
FLEE!
LATER, KRISHNADEVA RAYA ADDRESSED HIS ARMY.
OUR VICTORY SHOULD NOT MAKE US COMPLACENT. PRATAPA RUDRA OF KALINGA AND ADIL KHAN OF BIJAPUR ARE OUR SWORN ENEMIES. ONLY WHEN THEY ARE DEFEATED, WILL OUR KINGDOM KNOW PEACE. SO, FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE, WE MUST SUBDUE THEM.

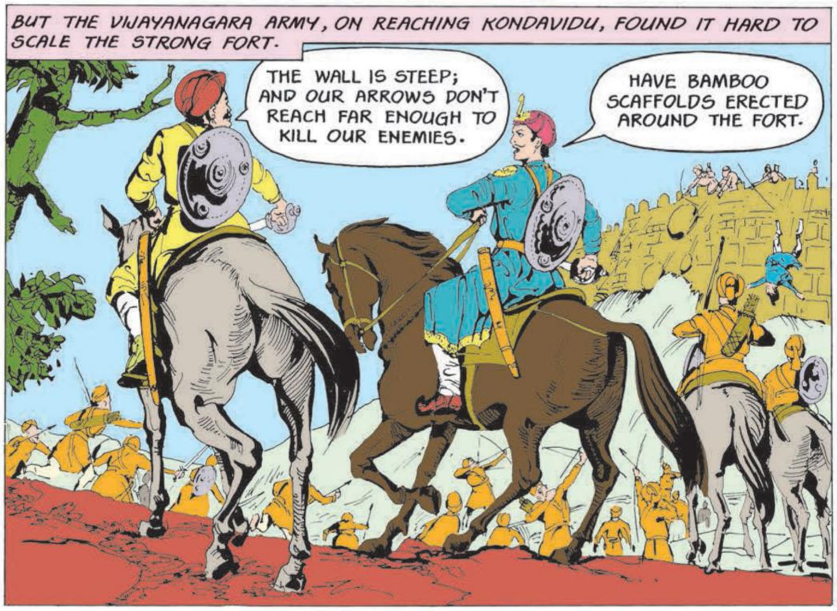

AT UDAIGIRI, HIS INACCESSIBLE FORT, PRATAPA RUDRA, KING OF KALINGA, WAS AMUSED TO HEAR ABOUT KRISHNADEVA RAYA'S PLANS TO ATTACK HIM.
KRISHNADEVA TO ATTACK ME AND TAKE MY FORTS! HA! HA! LET HIM FIRST FIND HIS WAY HERE!
TIRUMALA RAUT, YOU WILL TAKE CHARGE OF FORT UDAIGIRI. PRINCE VIRABHADRA WILL TAKE CARE OF FORT KONDAVIDU. I WILL DIRECT THE OPERATIONS FROM FORT POTANUR.
WE SHALL NOT FAIL YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

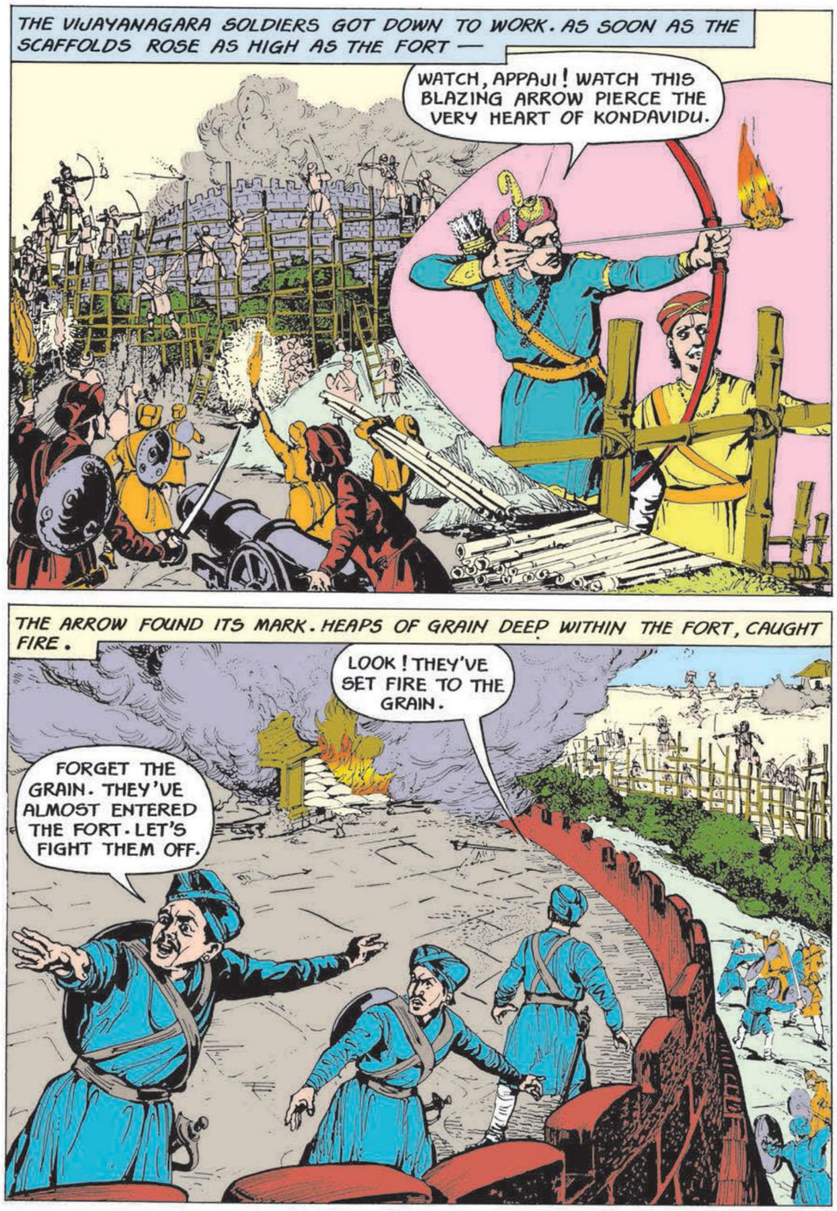

KRISHNADEVA RAYA PERSONALLY LED THE ARMY.
WHAT A DENSE FOREST! WHAT SHALL WE DO?
HAVE THE TREES PULLED DOWN AND THE PATH CLEARED. OUR ARMY SHALL MOVE ON.
A MERE FOREST WAS NOT GOING TO PREVENT KRISHNADEVA RAYA FROM ACHIEVING HIS AIM.

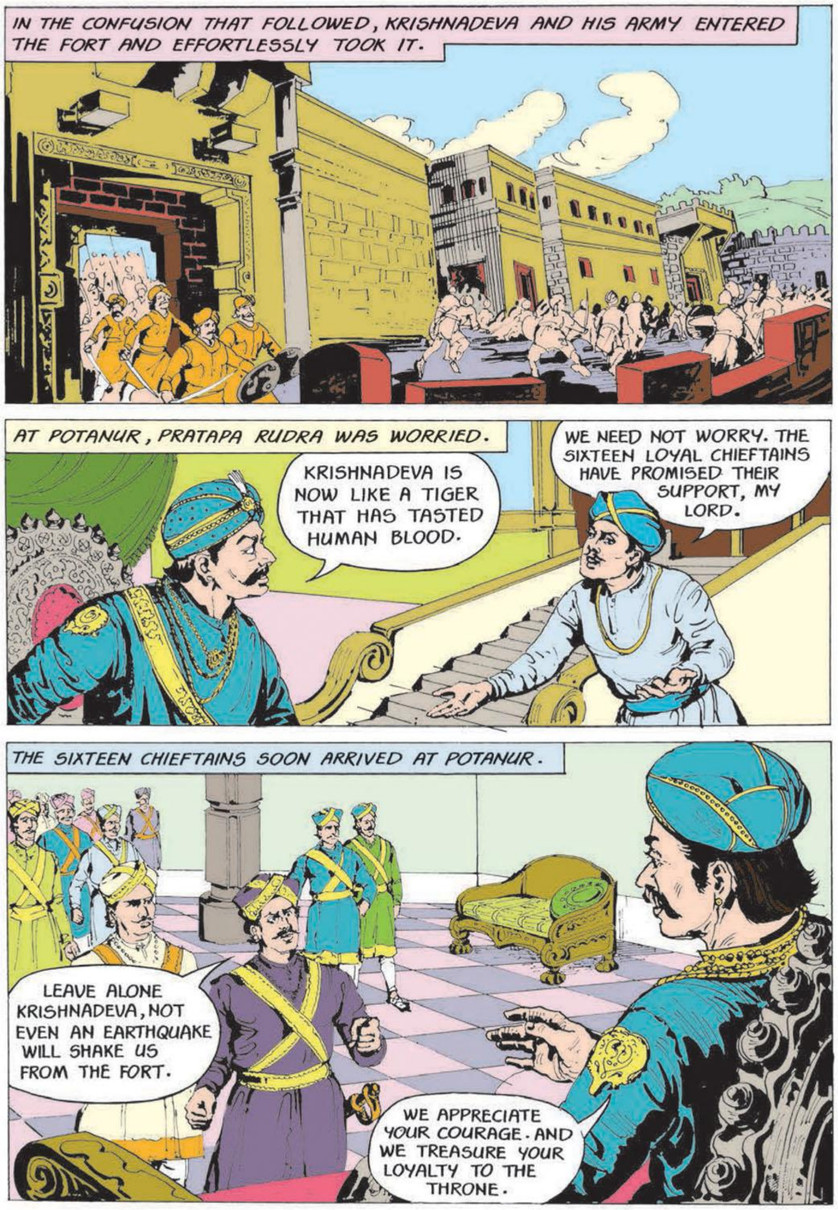

THE VIJAYANAGARA ARMY SET TO WORK WITH ITS ELEPHANTS, CLEARED THE PATH...

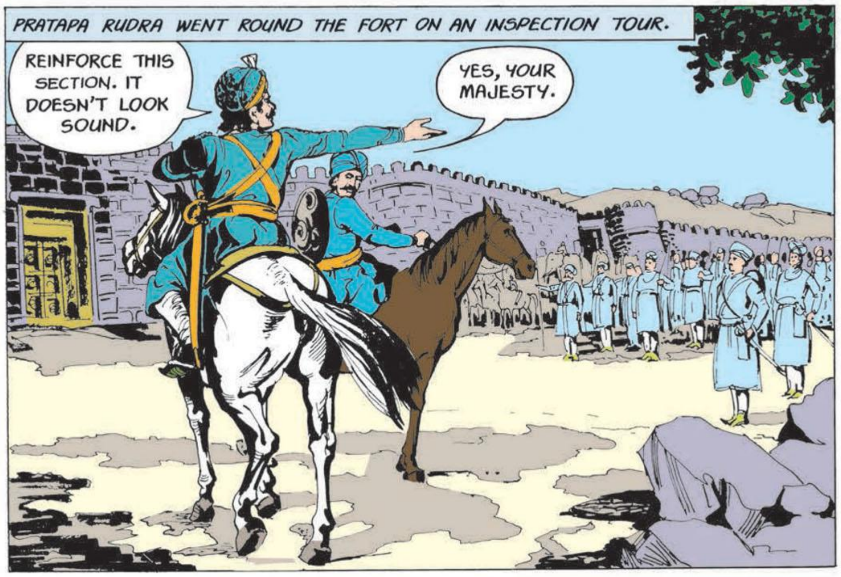

...REACHED UDAIGIRI, SCALED THE FORT AND ATTACKED!


TIRUMALA RAUT COULD NOT HOLD OUT FOR LONG.
YOUR MAJESTY, TIRUMALA RAUT, OUR CHIEF, HAS SENT HIS TURBAN AS A TOKEN OF SURRENDER.
THEN ON WE GO TO FORT KONDAVIDU!


BUT THE VIJAYANAGARA ARMY, ON REACHING KONDAVIDU, FOUND IT HARD TO SCALE THE STRONG FORT.
THE WALL IS STEEP; AND OUR ARROWS DON'T REACH FAR ENOUGH TO KILL OUR ENEMIES.
HAVE BAMBOO SCAFFOLDS ERECTED AROUND THE FORT.

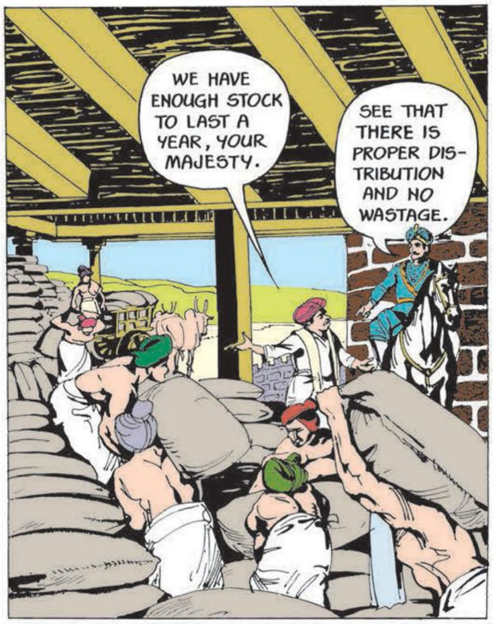

THE VIJAYANAGARA SOLDIERS GOT DOWN TO WORK. AS SOON AS THE SCAFFOLDS ROSE AS HIGH AS THE FORT —
WATCH, APPAJI! WATCH THIS BLAZING ARROW PIERCE THE VERY HEART OF KONDAVIDU.
THE ARROW FOUND ITS MARK. HEAPS OF GRAIN DEEP WITHIN THE FORT, CAUGHT FIRE.
LOOK! THEY'VE SET FIRE TO THE GRAIN.
FORGET THE GRAIN. THEY'VE ALMOST ENTERED THE FORT. LET'S FIGHT THEM OFF.


IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED, KRISHNADEVA AND HIS ARMY ENTERED THE FORT AND EFFORTLESSLY TOOK IT.
AT POTANUR, PRATAPA RUDRA WAS WORRIED.
KRISHNADEVA IS NOW LIKE A TIGER THAT HAS TASTED HUMAN BLOOD.
WE NEED NOT WORRY. THE SIXTEEN LOYAL CHIEFTAINS HAVE PROMISED THEIR SUPPORT, MY LORD.
THE SIXTEEN CHIEFTAINS SOON ARRIVED AT POTANUR.
LEAVE ALONE KRISHNADEVA, NOT EVEN AN EARTHQUAKE WILL SHAKE US FROM THE FORT.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR COURAGE. AND WE TREASURE YOUR LOYALTY TO THE THRONE.

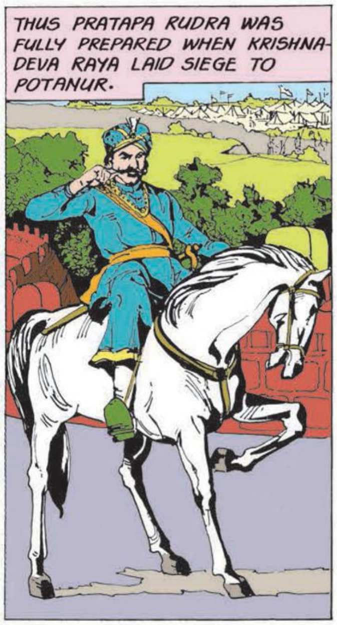


PRATAPA RUDRA WENT ROUND THE FORT ON AN INSPECTION TOUR.

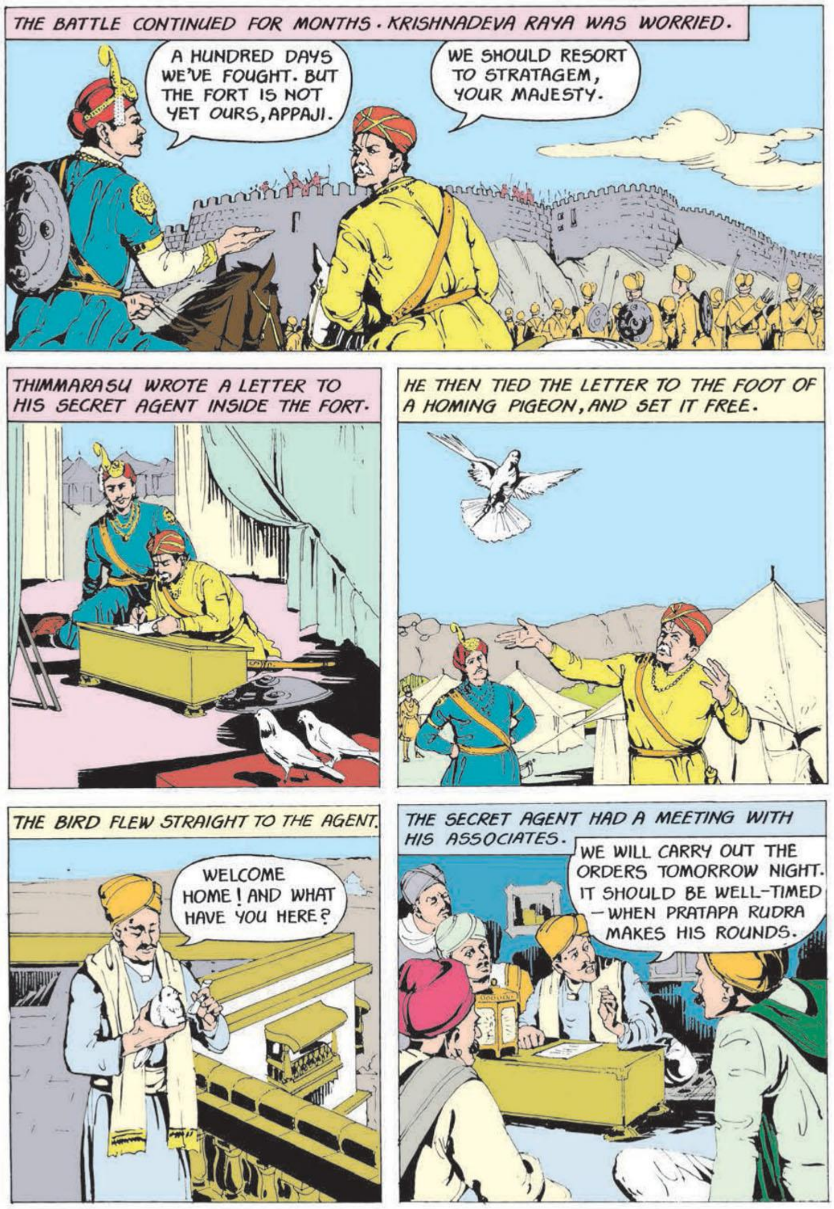
REINFORCE THIS SECTION. IT DOESN'T LOOK SOUND.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

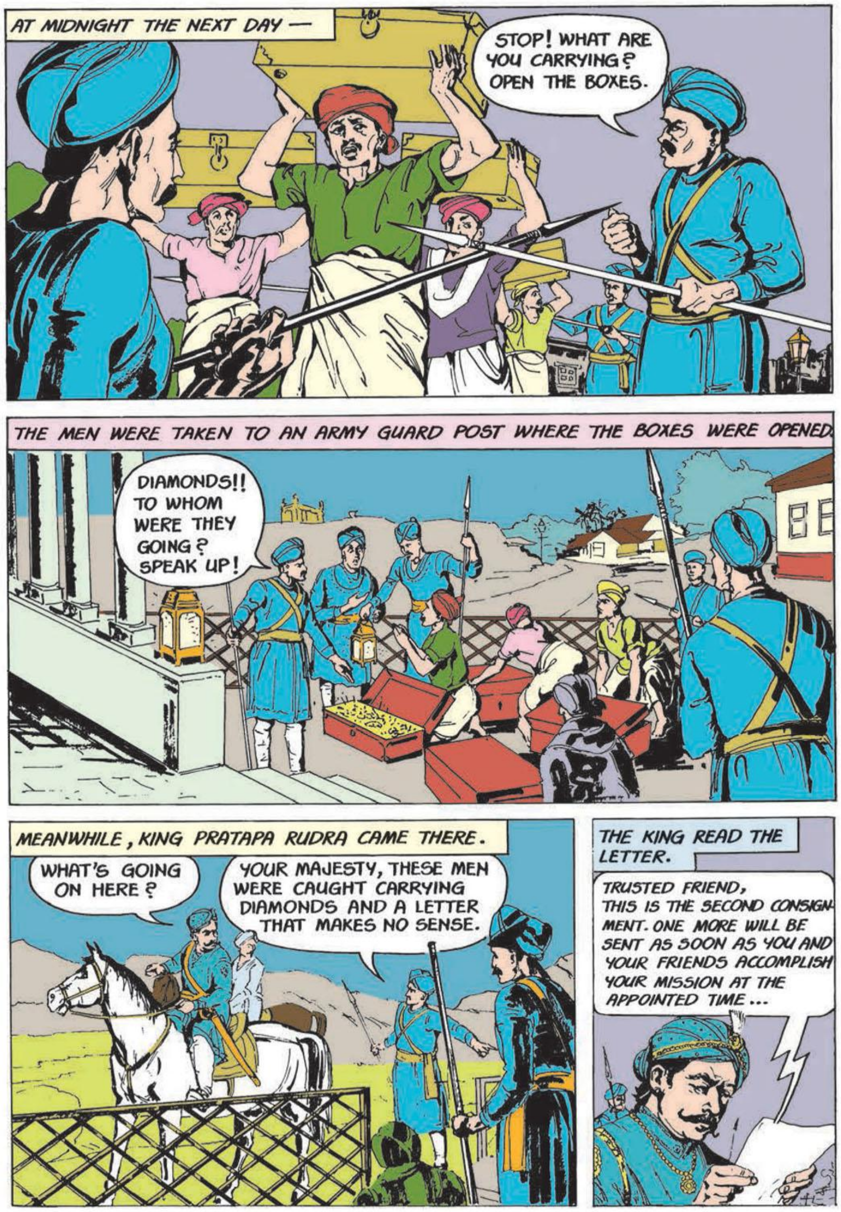


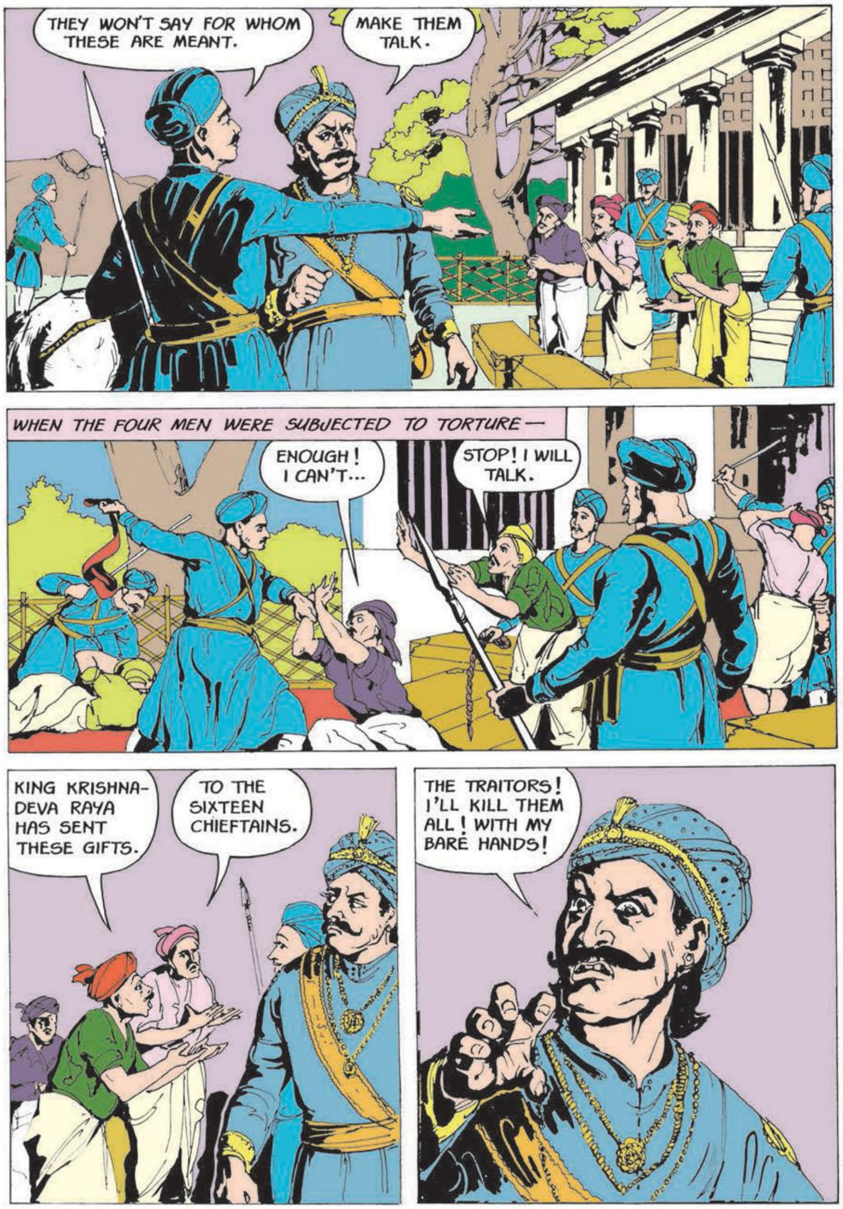
WE HAVE ENOUGH STOCK TO LAST A YEAR, YOUR MAJESTY.
SEE THAT THERE IS PROPER DISTRIBUTION AND NO WASTAGE.

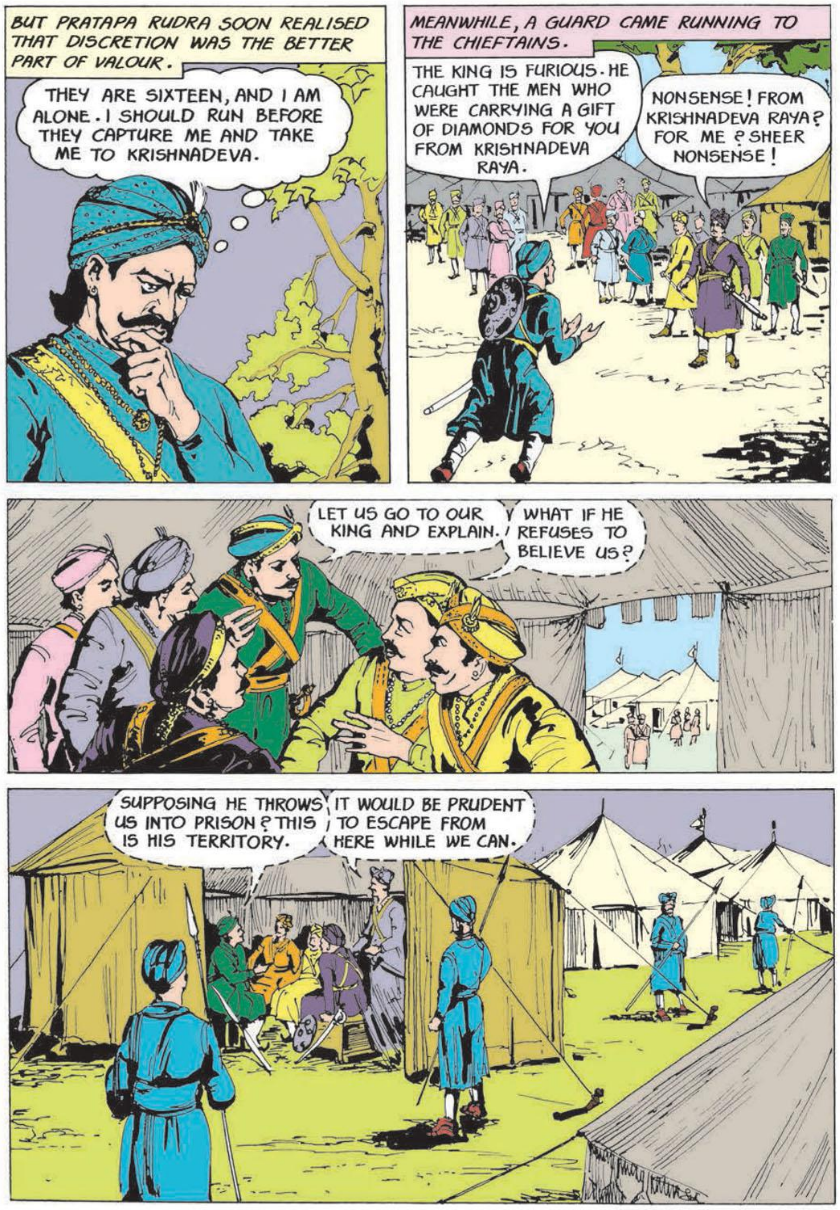


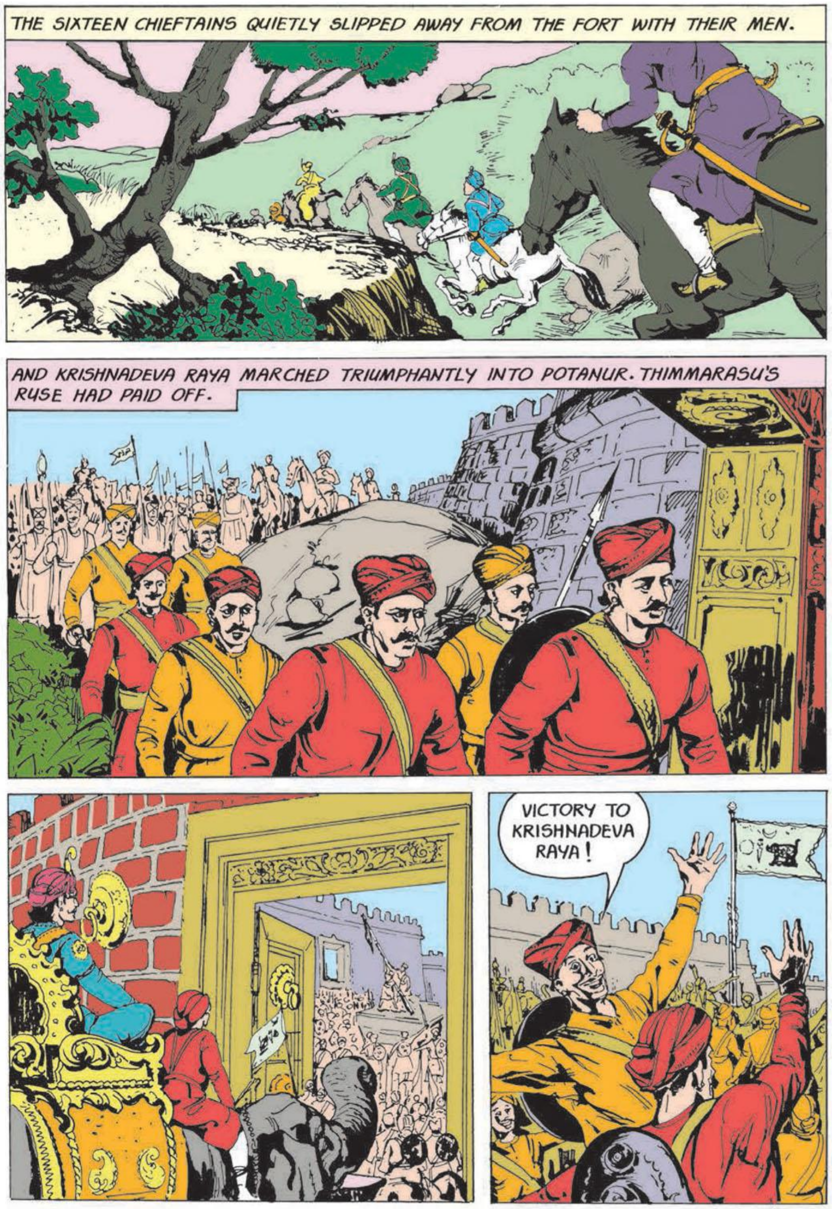
THUS PRATAPA RUDRA WAS FULLY PREPARED WHEN KRISHNADEVA RAYA LAID SIEGE TO POTANUR.

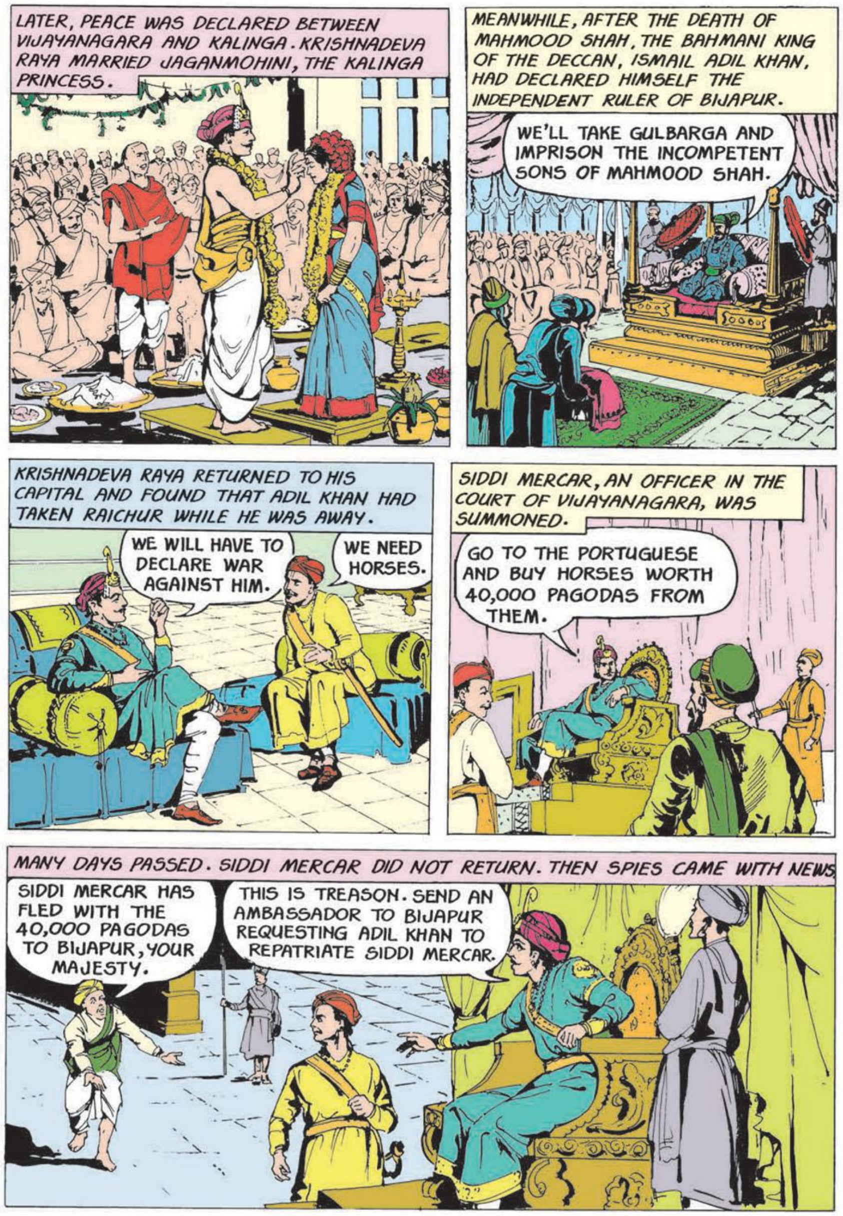

THE BATTLE CONTINUED FOR MONTHS. KRISHNADEVA RAYA WAS WORRIED.
A HUNDRED DAYS WE'VE FOUGHT. BUT THE FORT IS NOT YET OURS, APPAJI.
WE SHOULD RESORT TO STRATAGEM, YOUR MAJESTY.
THIMMARASU WROTE A LETTER TO HIS SECRET AGENT INSIDE THE FORT.
HE THEN TIED THE LETTER TO THE FOOT OF A HOMING PIGEON, AND SET IT FREE.
THE BIRD FLEW STRAIGHT TO THE AGENT.
WELCOME HOME! AND WHAT HAVE YOU HERE?
THE SECRET AGENT HAD A MEETING WITH HIS ASSOCIATES.
WE WILL CARRY OUT THE ORDERS TOMORROW NIGHT. IT SHOULD BE WELL-TIMED — WHEN PRATAPA RUDRA MAKES HIS ROUNDS.

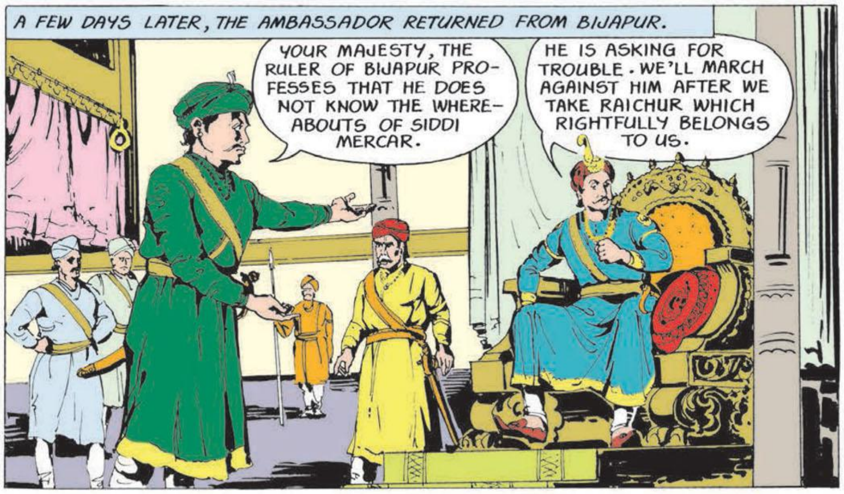

AT MIDNIGHT THE NEXT DAY —
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING? OPEN THE BOXES.
THE MEN WERE TAKEN TO AN ARMY GUARD POST WHERE THE BOXES WERE OPENED.
DIAMONDS!! TO WHOM WERE THEY GOING? SPEAK UP!
MEANWHILE, KING PRATAPA RUDRA CAME THERE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOUR MAJESTY, THESE MEN WERE CAUGHT CARRYING DIAMONDS AND A LETTER THAT MAKES NO SENSE.
THE KING READ THE LETTER.
TRUSTED FRIEND, THIS IS THE SECOND CONSIGNMENT. ONE MORE WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION AT THE APPOINTED TIME ...

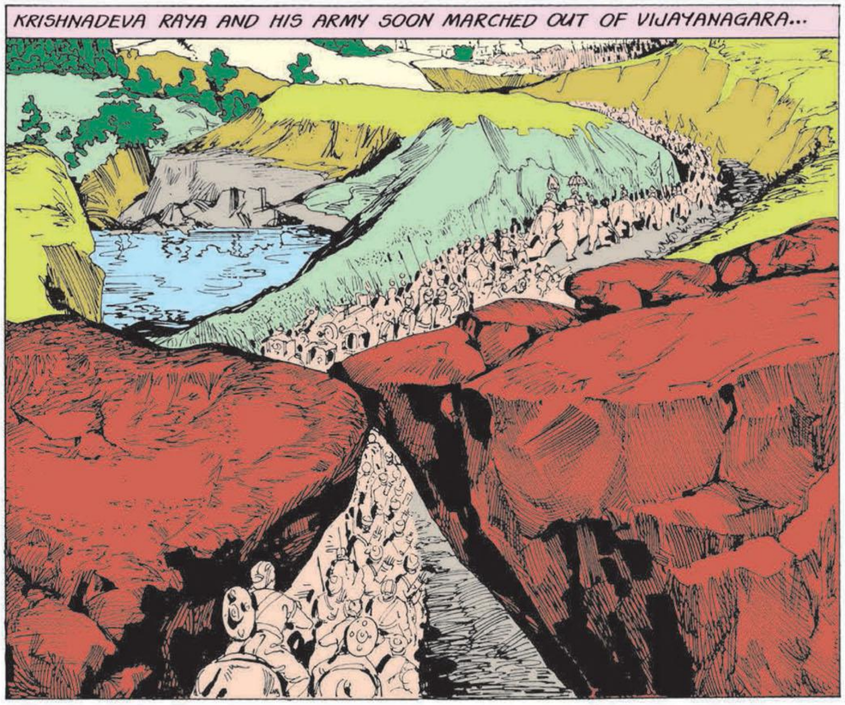

THEY WON'T SAY FOR WHOM THESE ARE MEANT.
MAKE THEM TALK.
WHEN THE FOUR MEN WERE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE—
ENOUGH! I CAN'T...
STOP! I WILL TALK.
KING KRISHNADEVA RAYA HAS SENT THESE GIFTS.
TO THE SIXTEEN CHIEFTAINS.
THE TRAITORS! I'LL KILL THEM ALL! WITH MY BARE HANDS!

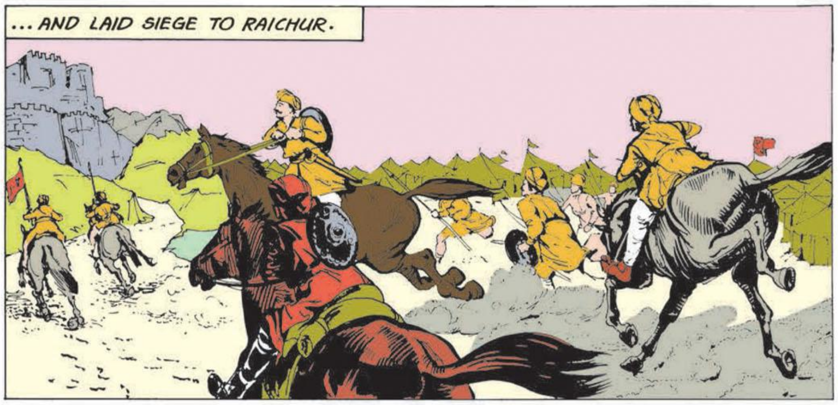

BUT PRATAPA RUDRA SOON REALISED THAT DISCRETION WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOUR.
THEY ARE SIXTEEN, AND I AM ALONE. I SHOULD RUN BEFORE THEY CAPTURE ME AND TAKE ME TO KRISHNADEVA.
MEANWHILE, A GUARD CAME RUNNING TO THE CHIEFTAINS.
THE KING IS FURIOUS. HE CAUGHT THE MEN WHO WERE CARRYING A GIFT OF DIAMONDS FOR YOU FROM KRISHNADEVA RAYA.
NONSENSE! FROM KRISHNADEVA RAYA? FOR ME? SHEER NONSENSE!
LET US GO TO OUR KING AND EXPLAIN.
WHAT IF HE REFUSES TO BELIEVE US?
SUPPOSING HE THROWS US INTO PRISON? THIS IS HIS TERRITORY.
IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ESCAPE FROM HERE WHILE WE CAN.

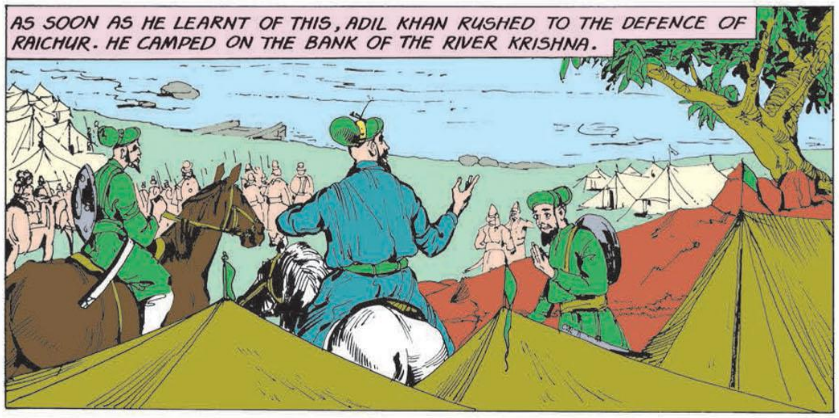

THE SIXTEEN CHIEFTAINS QUIETLY SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE FORT WITH THEIR MEN.
AND KRISHNADEVA RAYA MARCHED TRIUMPHANTLY INTO POTANUR. THIMMARASU'S RUSE HAD PAID OFF.
VICTORY TO KRISHNADEVA RAYA!

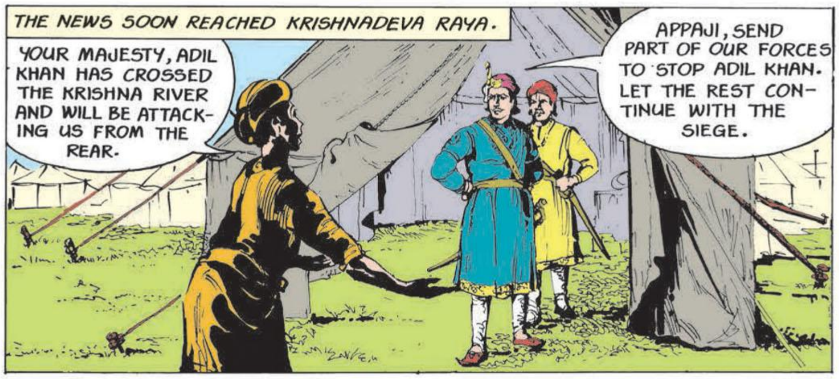

LATER, PEACE WAS DECLARED BETWEEN VIJAYANAGARA AND KALINGA. KRISHNADEVA RAYA MARRIED JAGANMOHINI, THE KALINGA PRINCESS.
MEANWHILE, AFTER THE DEATH OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING OF THE DECCAN, ISMAIL ADIL KHAN, HAD DECLARED HIMSELF THE INDEPENDENT RULER OF BIJAPUR.
WE'LL TAKE GULBARGA AND IMPRISON THE INCOMPETENT SONS OF MAHMOOD SHAH.
KRISHNADEVA RAYA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL AND FOUND THAT ADIL KHAN HAD TAKEN RAICHUR WHILE HE WAS AWAY.
WE WILL HAVE TO DECLARE WAR AGAINST HIM.
WE NEED HORSES.
SIDDI MERCAR, AN OFFICER IN THE COURT OF VIJAYANAGARA, WAS SUMMONED.
GO TO THE PORTUGUESE AND BUY HORSES WORTH 40,000 PAGODAS FROM THEM.
MANY DAYS PASSED. SIDDI MERCAR DID NOT RETURN. THEN SPIES CAME WITH NEWS.
SIDDI MERCAR HAS FLED WITH THE 40,000 PAGODAS TO BIJAPUR, YOUR MAJESTY.
THIS IS TREASON. SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO BIJAPUR REQUESTING ADIL KHAN TO REPATRIATE SIDDI MERCAR.

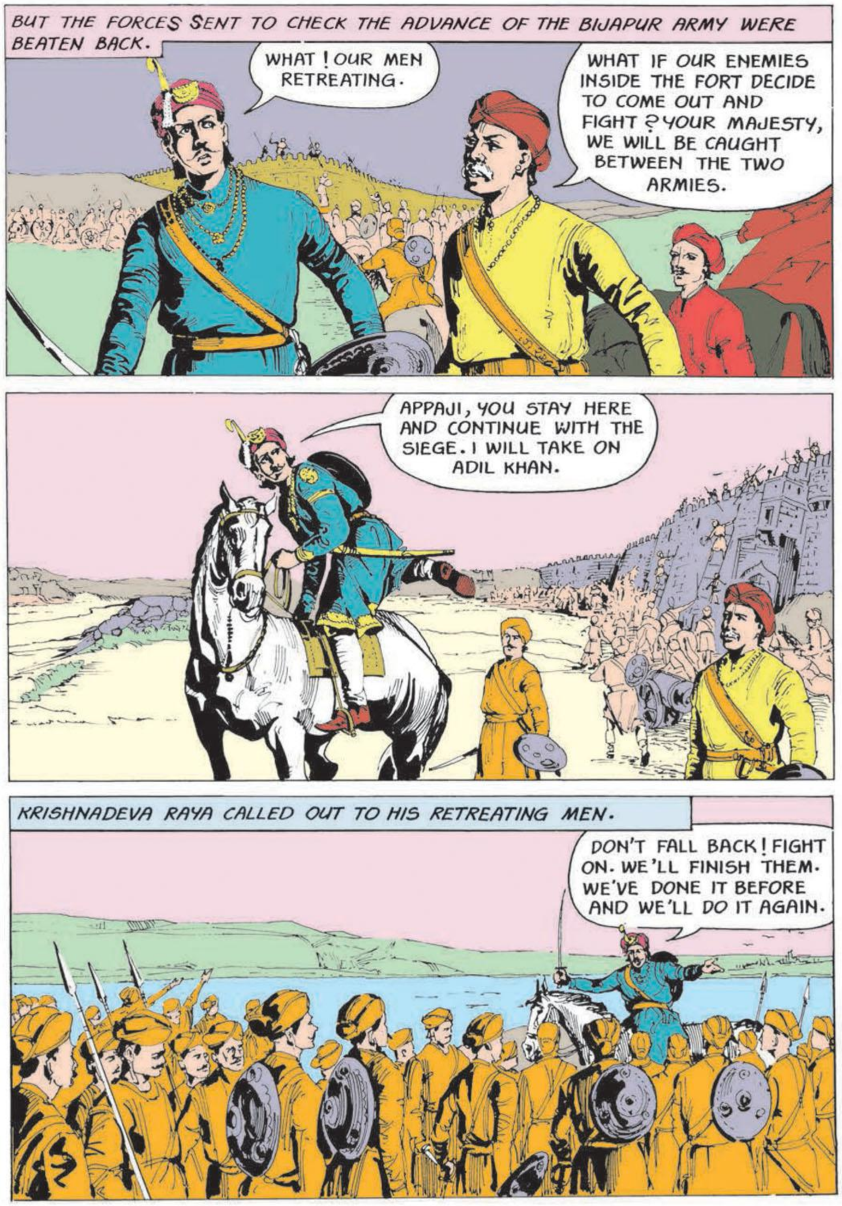

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED FROM BIJAPUR.
YOUR MAJESTY, THE RULER OF BIJAPUR PROFESSES THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF SIDDI MERCAR.
HE IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE. WE'LL MARCH AGAINST HIM AFTER WE TAKE RAICHUR WHICH RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO US.

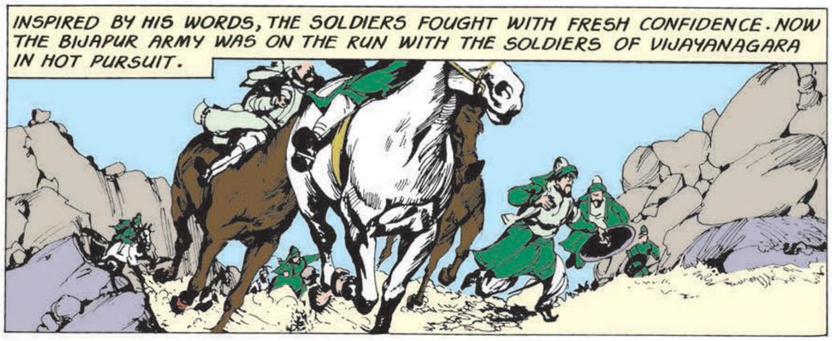

KRISHNADEVA RAYA AND HIS ARMY SOON MARCHED OUT OF VIJAYANAGARA...


...AND LAID SIEGE TO RAICHUR.

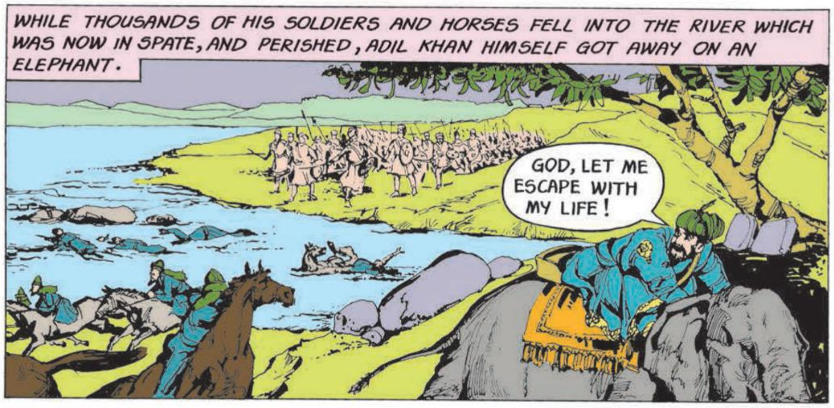

AS SOON AS HE LEARNT OF THIS, ADIL KHAN RUSHED TO THE DEFENCE OF RAICHUR. HE CAMPED ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER KRISHNA.


THE NEWS SOON REACHED KRISHNADEVA RAYA.
YOUR MAJESTY, ADIL KHAN HAS CROSSED THE KRISHNA RIVER AND WILL BE ATTACKING US FROM THE REAR.
APPAJI, SEND PART OF OUR FORCES TO STOP ADIL KHAN. LET THE REST CONTINUE WITH THE SIEGE.


BUT THE FORCES SENT TO CHECK THE ADVANCE OF THE BIJAPUR ARMY WERE BEATEN BACK.
WHAT ! OUR MEN RETREATING.
WHAT IF OUR ENEMIES INSIDE THE FORT DECIDE TO COME OUT AND FIGHT ? YOUR MAJESTY, WE WILL BE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES.
APPAJI, YOU STAY HERE AND CONTINUE WITH THE SIEGE. I WILL TAKE ON ADIL KHAN.
KRISHNADEVA RAYA CALLED OUT TO HIS RETREATING MEN.
DON'T FALL BACK! FIGHT ON. WE'LL FINISH THEM. WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE AND WE'LL DO IT AGAIN.

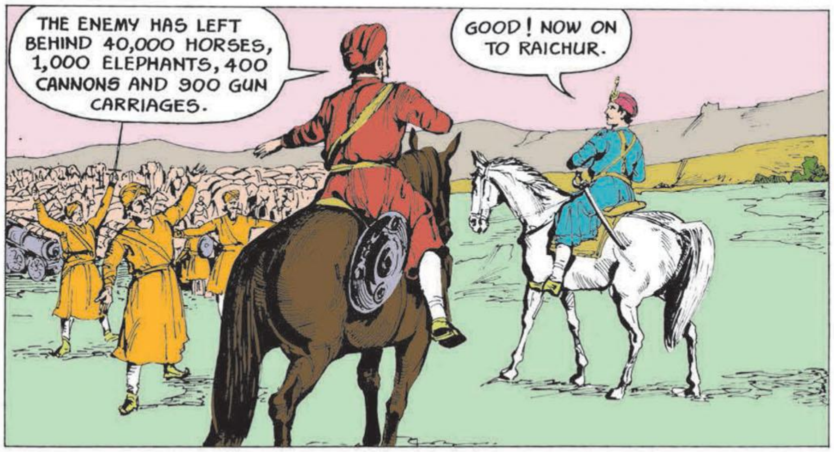


INSPIRED BY HIS WORDS, THE SOLDIERS FOUGHT WITH FRESH CONFIDENCE. NOW THE BIJAPUR ARMY WAS ON THE RUN WITH THE SOLDIERS OF VIJAYANAGARA IN HOT PURSUIT.



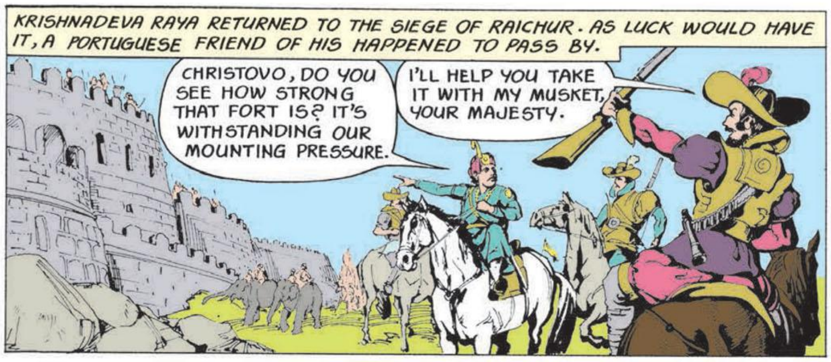
WHILE THOUSANDS OF HIS SOLDIERS AND HORSES FELL INTO THE RIVER WHICH WAS NOW IN SPATE, AND PERISHED, ADIL KHAN HIMSELF GOT AWAY ON AN ELEPHANT.

GOD, LET ME ESCAPE WITH MY LIFE!

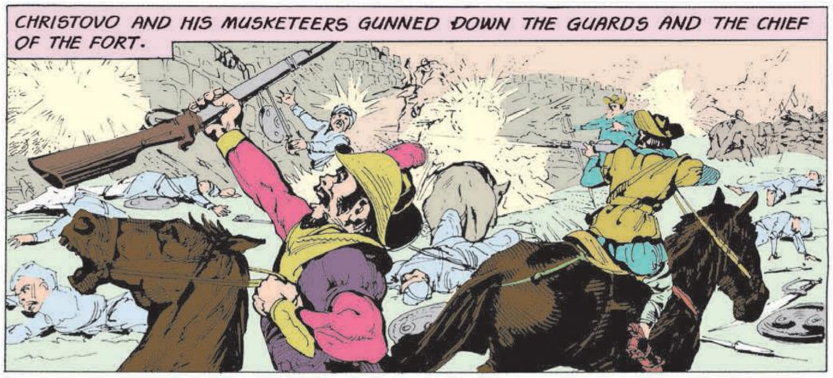


THE ENEMY HAS LEFT BEHIND 40,000 HORSES, 1,000 ELEPHANTS, 400 CANNONS AND 900 GUN CARRIAGES.
GOOD! NOW ON TO RAICHUR.

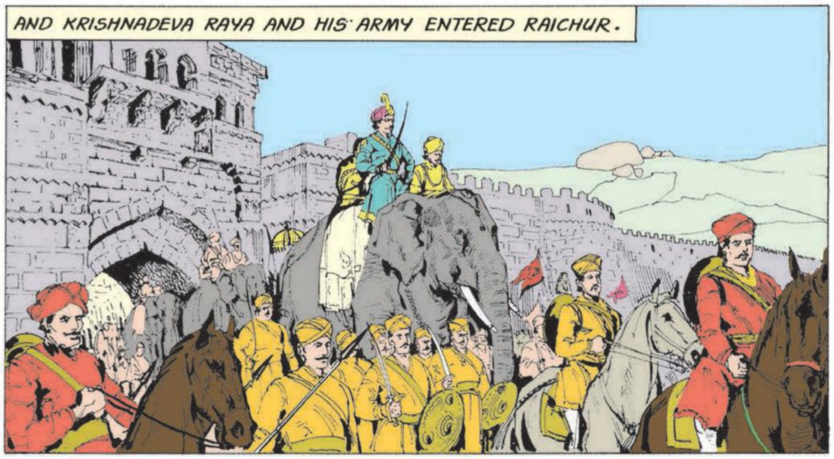
KRISHNADEVA RAYA RETURNED TO THE SIEGE OF RAICHUR. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, A PORTUGUESE FRIEND OF HIS HAPPENED TO PASS BY.

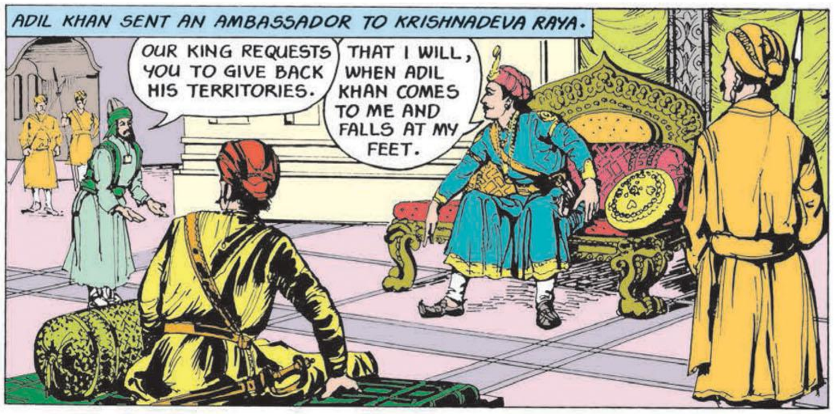

CHRISTOVO, DO YOU SEE HOW STRONG THAT FORT IS? IT'S WITHSTANDING OUR MOUNTING PRESSURE.
I'LL HELP YOU TAKE IT WITH MY MUSKET, YOUR MAJESTY.

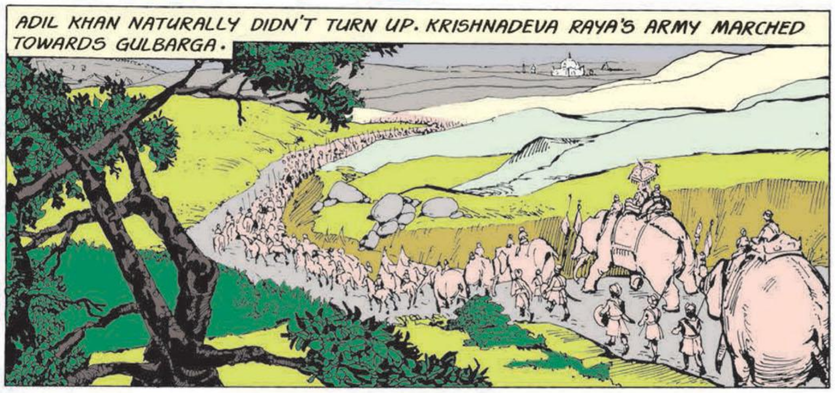
CHRISTOVO AND HIS MUSKETEERS GUNNED DOWN THE GUARDS AND THE CHIEF OF THE FORT.

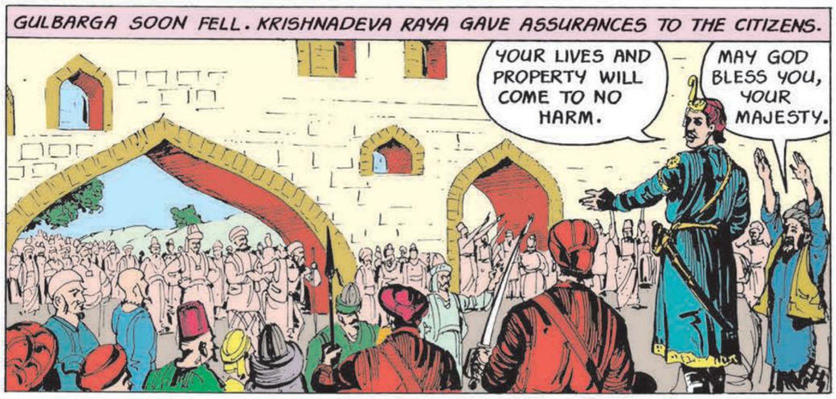


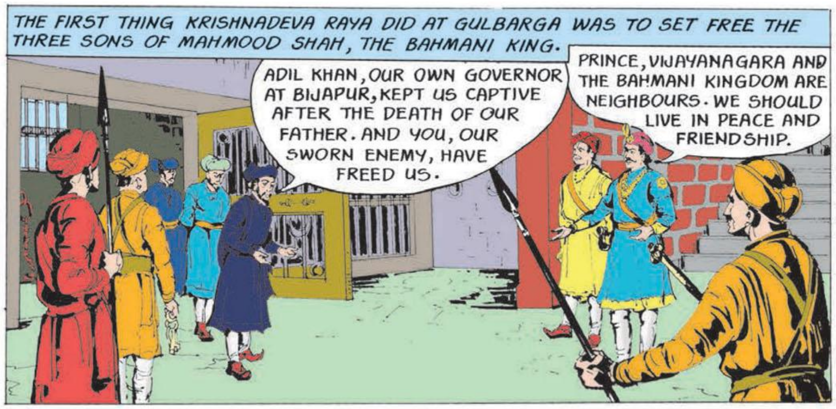
AND KRISHNADEVA RAYA AND HIS ARMY ENTERED RAICHUR.




ADIL KHAN SENT AN AMBASSADOR TO KRISHNADEVA RAYA.
OUR KING REQUESTS YOU TO GIVE BACK HIS TERRITORIES.
THAT I WILL, WHEN ADIL KHAN COMES TO ME AND FALLS AT MY FEET.

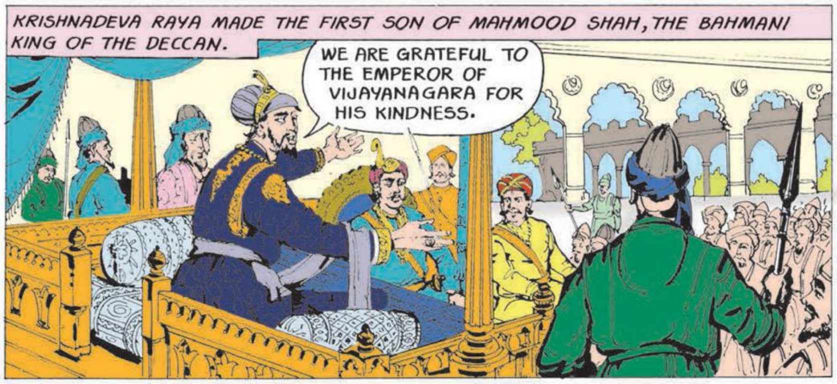

ADIL KHAN NATURALLY DIDN'T TURN UP. KRISHNADEVA RAYA'S ARMY MARCHED TOWARDS GULBARGA.


GULBARGA SOON FELL. KRISHNADEVA RAYA GAVE ASSURANCES TO THE CITIZENS.
YOUR LIVES AND PROPERTY WILL COME TO NO HARM.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.



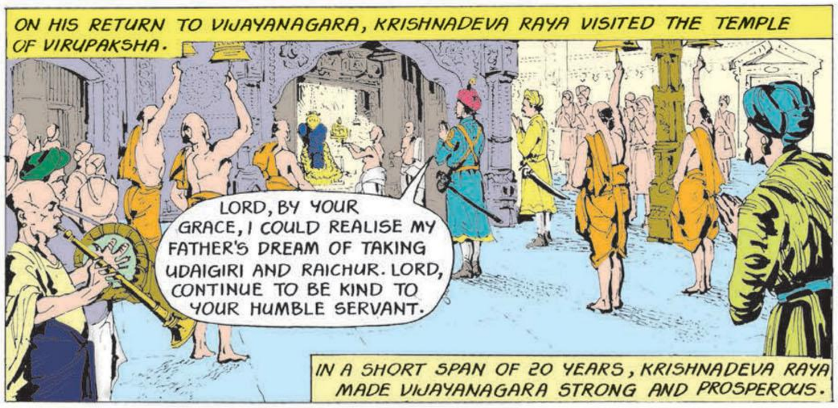
THE FIRST THING KRISHNADEVA RAYA DID AT GULBARGA WAS TO SET FREE THE THREE SONS OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING.

ADIL KHAN, OUR OWN GOVERNOR AT BIJAPUR, KEPT US CAPTIVE AFTER THE DEATH OF OUR FATHER. AND YOU, OUR SWORN ENEMY, HAVE FREED US.
PRINCE, VIJAYANAGARA AND THE BAHMANI KINGDOM ARE NEIGHBOURS. WE SHOULD LIVE IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP.



KRISHNADEVA RAYA MADE THE FIRST SON OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING OF THE DECCAN.

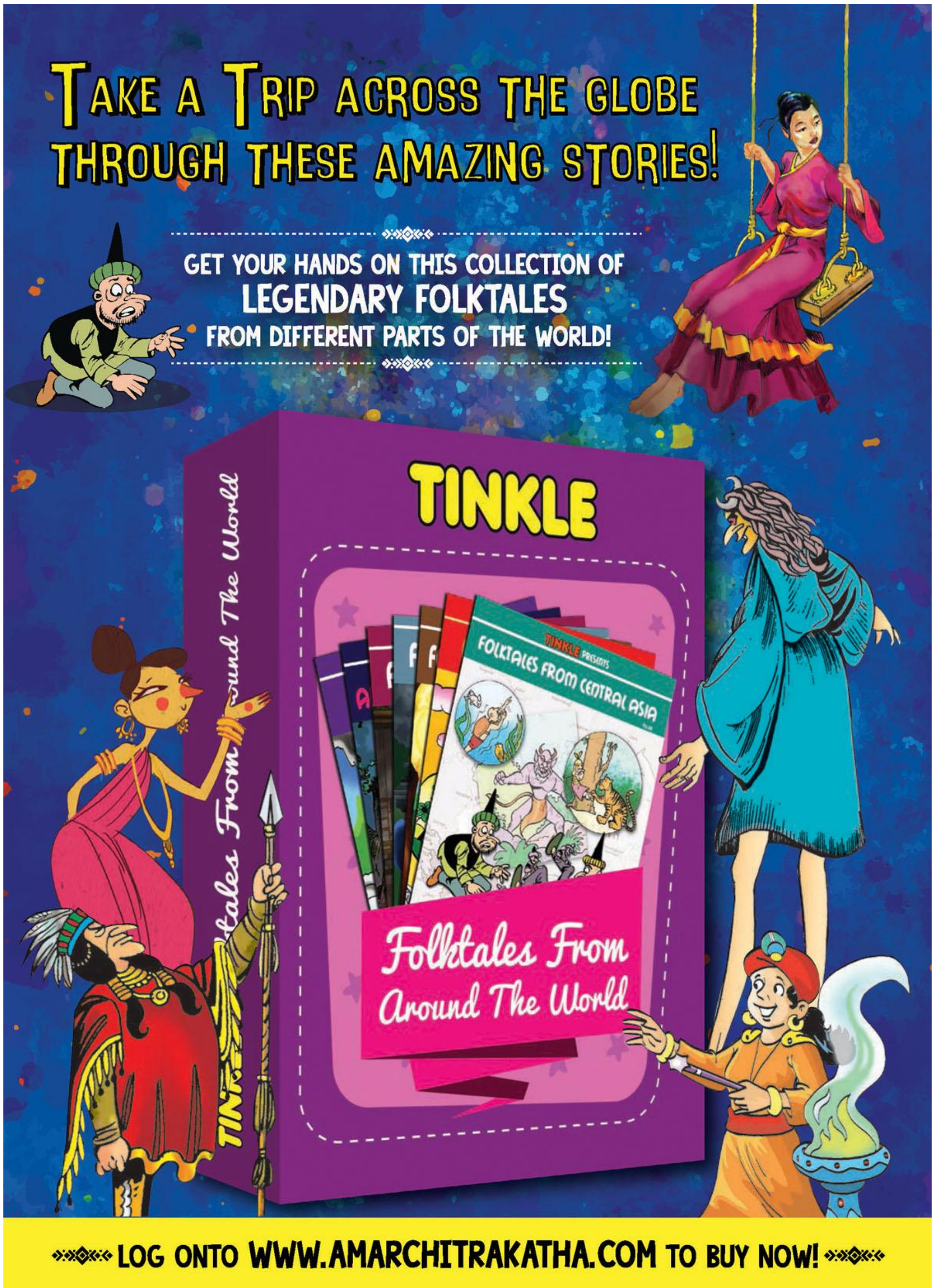
WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE EMPEROR OF VIJAYANAGARA FOR HIS KINDNESS.



ON HIS RETURN TO VIJAYANAGARA, KRISHNADEVA RAYA VISITED THE TEMPLE OF VIRUPAKSHA.

LORD, BY YOUR GRACE, I COULD REALISE MY FATHER'S DREAM OF TAKING UDAIGIRI AND RAICHUR. LORD, CONTINUE TO BE KIND TO YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.

IN A SHORT SPAN OF 20 YEARS, KRISHNADEVA RAYA MADE VIJAYANAGARA STRONG AND PROSPEROUS.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# Legendary Rulers of India

History comes down to us through rulers and leaders – it is they who carve out kingdoms and maintain them. It is through their patronage of poets and historians that we learn of our past. The kings and queens who are still remembered are those whose actions led to the composition of songs and stories, like the 8th century king of Kashmir, Lalitaditya, who was immortalised in the Rajatarangini of Kalhana. And those who documented their reign through engravings as did Ashoka, or in memoirs and biographies, as did Babur and Akbar.

The rulers of this collection have been chosen for the qualities that most endeared them to the people – their justice, their chivalry and their loyalty to their subjects. Some were cunning strategists in battle; others were empire builders, endowed with the vision and foresight to unite the people of an area into a new kingdom. They also, all, had the ability to inspire ordinary people and galvanise them into action.

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